

TRAVEL is conquered
by Norman coast.
Page 16



FOOD takes tips
from a French
master chef. Page 12



FASHION covers a
cover-up. Page 9



BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY APRIL 14 2006

NO. 254

CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM

Gansu skulls dumped by grave robbers

By Jiang Xubo

The 121 skulls found in northwest China's Gansu Province were left by grave robbers, provincial public security authorities announced this Wednesday.

A gang led by a farmer surnamed Qiao, from Huzhu county, Qinghai Province, raided abandoned tombs for skulls and sold them to a local man surnamed Liang. Liang then sawed off the upper parts of the skulls and sold them to a man surnamed Liu, from neighboring Yongjing County, in Gansu. Liu was engaged in the illegal manufacture and sale of craft items made from skull parts.

Liang abandoned the unwanted portion of the skulls, packed into four burlap sacks, some time before the lunar new year, in a ravine near Jinshaxia River, in Gansu's Tianzhu county. A local farmer discovered the skull remnants there at the end of February.

The skulls were first suspected to be from monkeys, but were later confirmed to be human. An immediate investigation was launched, and the Ministry of Public Security sent an investigative team to the area last week.

Local police have arrested people involved in the case for interrogation.

China's criminal law prescribes fixed-term imprisonment of not more than three years for desecration of human remains, which the law defines as a 'corpse'.

That definition will be the key to this case. "Generally speaking, a corpse means a torso," said Professor Xue Ruilin, of the College of Criminal Justice at the China University of Political Science and Law.

Domestic media has reported craft items made from skull bones have been found on sale in regional markets and also in Beijing.

Quitters are winners in anti-smoking drive

By Han Manman

Any local smoker has the chance to win US\$10,000 by joining the 2006 International Quit-Smoking Contest. Applications are open until May 1, and Chinese and non-Chinese nationals can sign up.

Competition rules say that if adults who normally smoke every day, and who have smoked for at least one year, can abstain from using any tobacco products over a four-week period starting from May 2, they have the chance of winning a 10,000 yuan (US\$1,210) first prize or 5,000 yuan (US\$625) second prize from the Chinese government, and a US\$10,000 prize from the World Health Organization (WHO). There are also six regional prizes worth US\$2,500 to be drawn in each of the regions of the international contest.

"Anyone wanting to take part in the contest can register at our website www.tobaccocontrol.com.cn before May 1. Participants must also provide names and contacts of two witnesses who will testify that the contestant has really quit smoking for a month," said Kang Jiming of the National Tobacco Control Office. "When the four-week period is up, we will conduct random spot checks using urine tests. If they come back negative, the person will get the prize. The international prize winner will be selected by the WHO at the same time".

It is the fourth time China, the world's largest producer and consumer of tobacco and home to 350 million smokers, has taken part in the international contest.

China first took part in the contest in 1996, and about 30 percent of past participants have stopped smoking within a year of the program, says Kang. "Chinese participants won the big international award in 1996 and a regional award in 2002."

Quit and Win, supported by the WHO is an international effort to help people quit smoking, and has been held every other year since 1994. It offers smokers guidance on how to kick the habit and provides an incentive through monetary awards. Nearly 60,000 Chinese smokers joined International Quit and Win in 2004.



Heart of Heaven's temple renewed

Renovations to the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest, the most magnificent building at the Temple of Heaven, were completed yesterday. The Hall will open to the public from May 1.

Photo by Ice Qian

Ancient bronze home after lost century

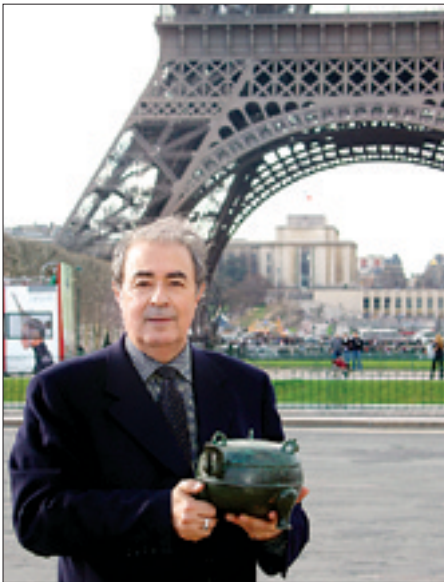
By Wang Xiaoyuan

An ancient bronze vessel was returned to Xi'an in Shaanxi by French archaeologist Bernard Gomez this week. It is the first Chinese antique to be returned by a foreign individual. It had been lost overseas for more than one hundred years.

The vessel is of a type called a *ding* in Chinese. In ancient times they were regarded as symbols of trust and authority. It was presented to the Xi'an Terracotta Warriors Museum in a ceremony on Monday.

Professor Gomez said, "This *ding* once witnessed the unification of China in the Qin Dynasty, and the glory days of the Han. I am glad to bring it back to see China re-united and thriving again."

Professor Gomez, president of Association pour la Protection de l'Art Chinois en Europe (APACE), has researched Chinese art and antiques for more than two decades. In the course of his work identifying ancient artifacts, the professor came across many Chinese art pieces and antiques that had been brought to Europe illegally. Two years ago, he happened to see a photograph of this *ding* and immediately recognized an inscription on it as from Xianyang, the ancient capital of Qin Dynasty. Some weeks ago, he found the *ding* again at a family auction in Paris. After negotiations with the owner, he managed to buy it before the auction.



Professor Gomez and the bronze vessel.

Photo provided by Comez

logically. It is very rare to see an antique like this recording so much history. Now, having been smuggled overseas and returned to China it will become legendary."

Professor Gomez first came to China in 1982, and once taught art at Shanghai University. Since the foundation of APACE in Paris two years ago, Gomez has donated a great deal of time and effort to finding and recovering Chinese antiques brought to Europe illegally. As the first overseas organization for the protection and return of Chinese art and antiques, APACE has received support from both the Chinese government and governments of European nations. APACE members include European entrepreneurs, artists, royals, and many ordinary lovers of Chinese art.

French golfer tops Beijing leader board

By Chu Meng

Frenchman Christian Cevaer set the early pace yesterday at the Volvo China Open 2006 at Beijing's Honghua International Golf Club, firing a six-under-par 66 to take a slender one-stroke lead.

Cevaer tops the leader board ahead of a chasing pack that includes English trio Ross Fisher, Simon Wakefield and



Christian Cevaer

Photo by Richard Castka

Simon Dyson, Spaniard Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano and Sweden's Peter Hanson, who all shot 67 in sunny conditions.

Xu Wenjun and Li Xiaoming, two Chinese players, are the only local amateurs to get the chance of a lifetime to rub shoulders with some of the world's best players.

The competition began yesterday and will finish Sunday.

Contemporary art booms but fears bubble to burst



One of Zhang Xiaogang's 'Bloodline Series'.

By Annie Wei

The third China International Galleries Exhibition opened at the World Trade Center this week, attracting 98 galleries from 17 countries, with over 4,000 artworks on show.

Exhibitors included very famous galleries like Galerie Laurent Godin (France), Kukje Gallery and Gallery Hyundai (South Korea), as well as the Marlborough from the US, who showed Picasso's 'Femmes a la Fontaine'.

The event was a big party for lovers of Chinese art and players in the Chinese art market, bringing together artists, critics, curators, galleries, and collectors. As more and more Chinese art is selling well in auctions at home and abroad, the art world seems gripped by a China craze at the moment.

In March, the first Chinese contemporary art auction in New York brought the highest price ever for a Chinese work. Sotheby's, who organized the New York inaugural sale of Contemporary Art Asia said the auction realized US\$13 million. Zhang Xiaogang's 'Bloodline Series: Comrade No. 120', a work from 1998 sold to loud applause for almost a million dollars, to an anonymous bidder. Sotheby's later Chinese art auctions in Hong Kong also did well.

Vivi Wang, an art journalist, said that the auction

in New York was a weather-vane for prospects for Chinese contemporary art over the next few years.

However, some believe the market is a bubble. They point out that at the New York auction, more than half the Chinese contemporary art was bought by Asian buyers.

However, because China has large number of people who can afford art, the popularity of Chinese contemporary art should last for some years.

While some believe the increasing consumer power of Chinese people will keep markets like real estate and cars bubbling, they are not so sure it can sustain the health of the art market. Local artist Ye Yongqing said that before 2000, Beijing had only three significant galleries, but now it has more than 50.

The art market does not flourish because of rich production of artwork, it thrives on overseas money, Ye said.

Another change in recent years is that before 2004 90 percent of buyers of Chinese contemporary art were from abroad, but now more and more local buyers have joined the crowd at the galleries.

Wang Du, an artist who left China for France in the 1980s recalled that, "There were no consumers for Chinese contemporary arts from the Chinese mainland at that time. Most buyers were expatriates who worked in China."

"Compared with ten years ago, nowadays artists can make a much better living," Wang said, "And more artists work in a wider variety of types of art."

CHIEF EDITOR: JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR: HOU MINGXIN
ART DIRECTOR: DENG NING

IPR protection central to Chinese national policy

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Minister of Commerce has said China will fight the infringement of intellectual property rights (IPR) as part of a national strategy for sound and rapid development, but denied this was the result of any outside pressure.

The battle against piracy will in fact greatly stimulate innovation in China, the encouragement of which is one of the center pieces of national strategy over the next five years, said Minister Bo Xilai.

As a giant in the production of intellectual property, China published 260 new

films, 45 billion books and 13,000 new TV series in 2005.

Special service centers that can handle domestic IPR infringement complaints will be set up in some 50 cities within three years, said Bo.

Bo said that the Chinese government also plans to include IPR knowledge in textbooks for primary school students, raising awareness of the issue from childhood.

In addition, the Ministry of Public Security vowed to crack down on not only illegal audio and video compact disk

production lines engaging in pirated products, but also on those who sell their output.

“China will definitely not promote employment and trade growth at the cost of IPR infringement,” Bo said.

IPR protection was not the main factor in the trade imbalance with the US. US exports of new hi-tech products to China have seen a dramatic drop over the past five years, a sign that US export restrictions on new hi-tech products affected the trade balance more than any piracy problem in China, according to Bo.

Bo pointed out that US technology exports to China had been growing only half as fast as those from the EU.

Bo said that an ‘irrational trade structure’ was the main factor affecting the two countries’ balance of trade, not IPR protection. Foreign companies generated 58 percent of China’s exports last year.

“If we exclude foreign companies’ exports from the country’s overall US\$102 billion trade surplus, China’s trade surplus with the US is about US\$20 billion to US\$30 billion,” said Bo.

Red walls of Beijing charm Red Ken

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The three-day visit to Beijing by Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, caught public attention here, especially amongst the media, businesspeople and academics.

The three themes of the mayor’s tour were the Olympics, education and travel. He was accompanied by an international team comprised of senior business figures from European enterprises, who made initial contact with potential Chinese business partners in Beijing.

Livingstone visited the Olympic venues and historic sites, and also attended seminars on city construction and economic innovation with Chinese entrepreneurs and experts at Tsinghua University.

The mayor, known as Red Ken for his old-school leftist politics, displayed a lot of interest and enthusiasm for Beijing people and their city. Though having arrived at the same time as the worst sand storm in Beijing this spring, Livingstone did not complain about the weather, but was not so happy with the traffic. “The best about Beijing for me is the people. It is the warmth from the people that makes me feel very safe and easy in this city. I will recommend my family

and friends to come to visit and stay. However, the traffic is still the biggest problem. I may say that it will be a hindrance to the coming Olympics.”

Talking about the construction of cities, Livingstone said priority had to be given to the quality of citizens’ lives. “A city must be livable, no matter how it grows and develops. It is always an argument about how to balance the historical landscape of the Forbidden City and modern construction. There is one rule when we develop London: whatever we do is to make the city more beautiful. And economic strength is the dynamic force for all the creation to build a global brand of a city.”

On Tuesday the mayor visited Soho New Town and met with the two CEOs of Soho China, Zhang Xin and Pan Shiyi. He showed much interest in the combination of office buildings and residential apartments. “In London, the management of land is operated by one authority. The downtown is mostly office buildings. Though they look glamorous in the daytime, it turns empty and lonely after sunset. Beijing, however, is always so active and lively throughout the day.”

Wednesday night, the mayor arrived at his second stop, Shanghai, where he will also tour for three days.



As the mayor of the 2012 Olympic host city, Ken Livingstone was an interested visitor to the building sites of the Beijing 2008 Olympic village.

Xinhua Photo

New US visa application center opens

By Lucky Zhang

The Beijing Service Hall of the US Visa Application was launched Wednesday by the Chaoyang District Government.

The new center is located on Xiushui Dongjie near the entrance to the present Visa Section of the US Embassy, and will be open from 6 am to 7 pm from Monday to Sunday.

The new center is more spacious and has a comfortable waiting area with seating for more than 80 applicants. Services available include assistance preparing the Electronic

Visa Application Form and other forms for applicants; a photographic studio; photocopying services; lockers for storing personal items; a post office; a branch the CITIC Bank and a travel agency.

Applicants can call the new center at 4008-872-333 to schedule a visa interview appointment. A valid passport has to be shown to gain entry to the new center. Visa applicants may visit enter the center at dates or times other than those of their visa interview appointment.

New air route shortens flight-time to Europe

By Qiu Jiaoning

China’s General Administration of Civil Aviation (GACA) announced that a new air route opened through its air space Wednesday, which will cut half an hour off flying time between Europe and Shanghai or Guangzhou.

The new air route’s flight zone starts north of Chengdu in southwest China and continues northwest into the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

The International Air Trans-

port Association (IATA) believes that the new route could initially make 110 flights a week to, from and across China shorter, and save airlines a total of US\$30 million in annual fuel costs.

The new route will also benefit the world’s environment, said IATA in a statement. It will cut 2,860 hours of flight time, 27,000 tonnes of fuel consumption, 84,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide emission, and 340,000 kg of nitrogen oxide emission annually.

New PCs must be sold with genuine operating system installed

By Chu Meng

New personal computers must be sold with genuine operating systems installed, in line with China’s push for better protection of intellectual property rights in the IT market.

A notice, jointly issued by the Ministry of Information Industry, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Finance and the National Copyright Administration has done away with the old rules that allowed computers to be sold without an operating system (OS) installed.

Previously, in order to keep costs down, Chinese PC makers would not install genuine operating systems such as Microsoft Windows or one of the many Linux distributions, preferring to bundle machines with pirated software.

Mao Luding, an engineer with Taiwan-based VIA Technology China, said “Generally speaking, a genuine version of Windows XP for home users costs about 400 to 500 yuan for

an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). Machines with no OS have always been the most competitive products in the medium- and low-end market, because of their low price. This notice will see OEMs pass on OS costs to their customers.”

Wu Xia, a spokesperson for China’s biggest PC maker Lenovo, said, “For big PC makers, the profits from machines with no OS, which are aimed at medium- and low-end markets, have already been seriously squeezed. It makes the costs of an OS a key factor in whether you make a profit. Though Microsoft has been very generous to OEMs by keeping its Windows software reasonably priced, an extra 500 yuan will be the last straw.”

Because of the overwhelming market supremacy of the Windows OS in the PC market, Microsoft is expected to be the biggest beneficiary of the notice.

State-owned banks open to private investment

By Chu Meng

State-owned commercial banks have opened the door to private investors, a Chinese banking official has said, refuting claims that the banks exclude private funds when bringing in strategic investment.

“There has never been a restriction on the entry of private funds into the capital holdings of state-owned banks, and private investors can hold part of the bank’s shares of state-owned banks,” said Tang Shuangning, of the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC).

Currently, some private investors hold, and are even buying a larger stake in, shares of some commercial banks, Tang said.

As China’s state-owned commercial banks, including the China Construction Bank, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and Bank of China, have completed their bringing in of strategic investment, there have been claims that private investors are excluded from strategic investment in state-owned banks.

Responding to this view, Tang said that capital access should be distinguished from institutional access when talking about bringing in strategic investors.

Strategic investors in the China Construction Bank all come from overseas, while such investors in the Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China include both international and domestic institutional investors, Tang was quoted as saying in Monday’s *Beijing Times*.

Panel ponders Olympic legislation

By Jiang Xubo

Will entry and exit through China’s borders be more closely supervised during the Olympic Games? Should motor vehicle traffic be curbed during the sporting spectacular?

These are just a few of the issues under consideration for legislation aimed at making the Beijing Olympic Games a success, and solutions may be ready this month, according to the Games Legislative Council Panel which was established this week.

The panel identified its first batch of 72 research issues, and distributed the list to 27 municipal administrative departments, requiring them to return completed surveys on the questions within this month.

Rules and laws for the Olympics aim to regulate public security, demonstrations, traffic and population flows during the games.

“It is not a stand-alone law but a series of regulations to support, guard and facilitate the preparation and holding of the games,” said Ji Lin, vice mayor of Beijing.

Long-term regulations on social administration will stay in effect after the games end. Short-term measures like curbs on traffic will expire automatically once the games are over, according to Xu Jihui, director of Environmental Activity Department for the Beijing Olympics.

There will be fixed penalties for administrative departments that do not submit bills now, and fail to keep things in order during the games.

Greece passed bills to regulate traffic and define such issues as zones where demonstrations are not permitted during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

Softball world championships will test new Olympic venue

By Jiang Xubo

Fengtai Softball Field, which will be one of the first of the new Olympic venues to be completed this July, will have a trial run when it hosts the International Softball Federation’s (ISF) XI Women’s World Championships between August 27 and September 5.

In all, 1,500 athletes from 16 powerhouses of the sport, including the USA, Japan, and Australia, are expected at the competition. The top four teams at the competition will secure a berth in the Olympic softball competition in 2008, according to the ISF, the governing body of the sport.

The organizers will begin to recruit volunteers for the event in May. Those who do a good job are expected to be invited to work at the upcoming Olympic Games.

“The championship will serve as a test event for the Beijing Olympic Games,” said Xiao Tian, a member of the General Administration of Sport and chair of the softball championship event.

Work began on the venue last June. The main field was topped out at the end of last year. The completed venue will hold a capacity crowd of some 12,000, and be ready before June 15.

World Youth Athletics help Beijing prepare for Olympics

By Chu Meng

The 2006 World Youth Athletics Championships to be held in Beijing this coming August will allow the city to accumulate experience for the 2008 Olympic Games, and give world athletics organizations a chance to become familiar with the environment here, said Zhang Jiandong, vice president of the organizing committee for the youth event.

“We have tried our best to reach Olympic standards in preparing the biggest IAAF tournament ever held in China, though our budget is mainly funded by the government,” Zhang said.

“The youth championships can be seen as a rehearsal for the Beijing Olympics, at least in terms of the athletics competition, so we will make every effort to make it a success.”

The World Youth Athletics Championships will be held from August 15-20, bringing some 2,000 young athletes from over 160 countries and regions to Beijing to compete in 40 different sports.

Some 30 staff from the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympics have joined the team working for the youth championships.

Brief News

Legal use of firearms approved

The Ministry of Public Security reiterated that it supports the legal use of firearms by authorized police officers to shoot and kill criminals when officers’ lives, or the lives of the public, are seriously endangered.

International loan for reform

The World Bank on Wednesday approved a US\$20 million loan, repayable in 20 years with a five-year grace period, to support China’s economic reform.

More subsidies for farmers

The government plans to offer a further 12.5 billion yuan (US\$1.56 billion) in direct subsidies to nearly 600 million grain growers this year, bringing total direct farm subsidies to some 27 billion yuan, more than double the amount last year, the Ministry of Finance said.

Fewer women living in poverty

The number of women living in absolute poverty in rural China decreased to 12 million at the end of last year, 23 million less than 1994, said Wang Guoliang, vice-director of the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

More reemployment benefits

The number of unemployed people entitled to benefit from Beijing’s preferential policies for re-employment will double to over 300,000 thanks to a new policy that will go into effect this May.

Rural-urban migrant workers up for labor awards

The list of candidates for National Labor Day Medals, one of the nation’s top honor awards, included 18 migrant workers from rural backgrounds, according to the All China Federation of Trade Unions.

Web self-discipline urged

A dozen major Beijing-based Internet portals, including Sina, Sohu, Baidu and Yahoo’s Chinese website called for joint efforts by the industry to clean indecent content off websites.

First national Chinese dolphin reserve

China will set up its first reserve off the coast of Zhuhai in Guangdong this year to protect the highly endangered Chinese white dolphin, said Chen Jialin, director of the administration of the state-level Chinese White Dolphin Natural Reserve.

First nature reserve for freshwater lakes

China’s first freshwater lake nature reserve, covering over 21 hectares and costing 350 million yuan (US\$43 million), will be ready within the next two years on the Tiandengzui Peninsula in Dongting Lake, the country’s second largest freshwater lake.

First weather channel to launch

The first weather channel in China will be launched in June, providing updated weather forecasts every ten minutes around the clock, according to the national Meteorological Administration.

Olympic Fencing team games canceled

Men’s Fencing Team Foil and Women’s Fencing Team Epee will not be part of the Beijing Olympic Games, the International Fencing Federation announced in Korea last Saturday.

English website for tax services

Beijing Municipal Office for State Administration of Taxation launched an English website last week to provide tax services for foreign enterprises in the city.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Weekly Review – World

US budget deficit hit US\$85.47 bln record in March

The US Treasury Department reported an US\$85.47 billion federal budget deficit in March – its highest in history for that month.

The cumulative deficit for fiscal 2006, which began October 1, was US\$302.99 billion so far. The Congressional Budget Office estimated the US budget deficit for the full fiscal 2006 year, which ends on September 30, will hit US\$371 billion, 2.8 percent of GDP, compared with \$318 billion and 2.6 percent in 2005.

– Reuters

US February trade deficit narrows to US\$65.7 bln

The US trade deficit narrowed in February to US\$65.7 billion. The Commerce Department said this was mainly due to falling imports and the trade gap with China shrank nearly 23 percent.

Market analysts suggest the annual trade deficit could surpass last year's record deficit of \$723.6 billion.

– Reuters

Toyota to Recall 57,000 Lexus Models

Toyota Motors will recall about 57,000 vehicles worldwide from its upscale Lexus brand because faulty parts in the device that winds seat belts may prevent passengers from buckling up.

Of the 57,000 vehicles, about 29,000 vehicles will be recalled in North America, 11,000 in Japan, 10,000 in Europe, and the remainder in other markets, according to a release issued Wednesday by the world's No. 2 automaker.

– AP

RIM to launch BlackBerry in China by mid-year



AP Photo

Research In Motion, the maker of the iconic BlackBerry device, said it expects to launch its wireless email service with China Mobile (Hong Kong) by mid-year.

China offers huge growth potential for RIM as it is the world's largest telecommunications market and China Mobile, the world's top cellular carrier by subscribers, holds two-thirds of the market.

– Reuters

Samsung, Sony to build new US\$2 bln LCD line

Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., the world's second-largest maker of large liquid crystal displays (LCD), said on Monday it had agreed with Japan's Sony Corp. to jointly build a new \$2 billion LCD line.

The new line will begin mass production in the autumn of 2007 and have an output capacity of 50,000 units per month. It will adopt a motherglass size of approximately 2.2 metres by 2.5 metres, the companies said.

Sony and Samsung formed a \$2 billion joint venture in 2004 to produce LCD TV panels using the 'seventh-generation' technology.

– Reuters



AP Photo

Bausch & Lomb halts ReNu in Beijing

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Bausch & Lomb Beijing Ltd. (B&L) announced yesterday that they have stopped selling ReNu Multiplus Lubricating and Rewetting Drops imported from the US. The State Food and Drug Administration approved the announcement.

All ReNu products still on shelves have also been banned. B&L promises that consumers can exchange a domestic-made product of the same value with the unopened Renu products at the pharmacy where they were bought.

The operation is in cooperation with B&L's temporary suspension of shipments of Renu with MoistureLoc lens care solutions produced in the Greenville, S.C., manufacturing facility. To respond to the report

by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, about 109 cases of suspected fungal keratitis were reported earlier this year. In the report, 21 reported using ReNu brand contact lens care products and five using a combination of ReNu and products manufactured by other companies.

"Though there is no direct evidence to prove that ReNu products are the cause of those cases, B&L is now cooperating with the local drug administrations to carry out investigations in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and the US. The suspending of ReNu will not affect any other sales of B&L products, according to the announcement.

There have been no reports of keratitis caused by ReNu products on the Chinese mainland.

'Gu Ge' for Google



Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google, unveils the new Chinese-language Google brand name "Gu Ge (Valley Songs)" in Beijing Wednesday.

Xinhua Photo

Property market boosted by multinational expansion

By Qiu Jiaoning

Beijing's property market boom in the first quarter of the year is the result of multinational and corporate expansion, according to a report by the real estate services firm Jones Lang LaSalle.

Multinational corporations have been actively hiring new employees and expanding their offices to accommodate their growing workforces, the report revealed.

Anna Kalifa, Jones Lang LaSalle's head of research for Beijing, says, "Finance Street, East Chang An and Zhongguancun were the main locations for users of larger space since the start of 2006, led by the finance and technology sectors."

Several international financial institutions signed leases to set up offices on Finance Street during the first quarter of 2006. Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan

have signed large lease agreements in Finance Street.

"Other investment banks might be more willing to make similar moves," Kalifa said, "but the CBD just announced similar incentives to those available in Finance Street, which could cause some banking tenants to think twice before moving."

The overall vacancy rate continued to increase to 15.3 percent, a 1.08 percent increase from the last quarter, when recently completed buildings are taken into account. But the vacancy rate dropped sharply to 14.27 percent in Finance Street as a result of large spaces leased by investment banks in Winland Plaza.

The report noted that now tenants can move into the China Youth Travel Services (CYTS) Building, a Grade A office with a total area of 65,127 square meters located

on the East Second Ring Road. The property is home to the future airport express light rail.

The sales market was startlingly active in 2006, with four projects sold en-bloc. Asia International Capital Investment Ltd. purchased two office towers of Huapu Centre in the East Second Ring Road area, totaling 130,000 for approximately US\$272.6 million. Japanese fund Replus purchased two unfinished office towers at China Central Place in the CBD for an undisclosed amount.

"These two deals are rare, but indicate that foreign funds are successfully finding assets for en bloc purchase in Beijing. Transactions for wholly owned assets are increasing, indicating a vibrant start for the investment market in 2006," said Kalifa.

Chinese shoemakers stand firm against EU tariffs

By Chen Shasha

Chinese shoemakers in Beijing and Guangzhou have reiterated their resolute opposition to the EU anti-dumping duties.

The EU began placed provisional anti-dumping charges on some Chinese and Vietnamese made shoes on April 7.

According to Chong Quan, a spokesperson from the commercial ministry, they

will continue the anti-tariff campaign until EU sets fair tariffs on Chinese shoes.

The EU announced that the duties would start at 4.8 percent and run until June 1. The duties will increase to 9.7 percent between June 2 and July 13 and from 14.5 percent between July 14 and September 14. The duties will eventually be increased to 19.4 percent within a six-

month period.

According to the EU, they will impose additional duties on China's shoe exports if the probe finds that they are being sold at below-production cost prices. In that case, the anti-dumping charges will be changed from temporary to permanent. However, children's shoes and high-tech sports shoes will be excluded from the tariffs.

Weekly Review – Nation

2006 China Philanthropy Hurun Report released

By Jiang Xubo

Hurun has issued the 2006 China Philanthropy list this week. 84-year-old Yu Pengnian, president of Pengnian Industries in Shenzhen, ranks number one on the list with donations of two billion yuan (about US\$250,000 million) since 2003.

The top 50 philanthropists on the list donated a total of over five billion yuan (about US\$624 million) since 2003, four times as much as last year's figure, according to the report.

Education, health and natural disaster aid absorbed most of the donations.

About 50 entrepreneurs that made the list come from the real estate industry, yielding more philanthropists than other industries.

Allianz receive permission to buy into ICBC

By Han Manman

Allianz, in partnership with Goldman Sachs Group and American Express Company, has signed a strategic investment and partnership agreement with ICBC. It includes investments worth US\$3.78 billion in ICBC. Allianz has bought a 2.5 percent stake worth US\$1 billion.

Allianz will sell bancassurance products and services to the bank's clients through its 18,000 outlets throughout China.

US\$8 million for capital subway construction

By Lucky Zhang

No. 5 subway line construction has been financed to the tune of US\$8 million by the China Construction Bank (CCB), CCB announced this week.

The No. 5 subway line construction is a key infrastructural development for the Beijing 2008 Olympic games. CCB made a structured financing plan to meet the needs of buying machinery from abroad.

The total finance that CCB has collected for the No. 5 subway line construction has reached the US\$80 million mark.

IKEA opens new store in Beijing

By Qiu Jiaoning

Swedish-based IKEA, the world's leading home furnishings retailer, opens a new store at Siyuan Qiao, Beijing on Wednesday. Occupying 43,000 square meters on three floors, the new store is second in size only to the Stockholm store in Sweden.

Ian Duffy, IKEA's president for the Asia-Pacific region, said that the company plans to set up another seven stores in China within five years, bringing the number of its stores in China to ten. He added that the company is also searching for locations for its next Beijing outlet.

China International Golf Trade Fair opens today

By Han Manman

The PGA Show Asia – 5th China (Beijing) International Golf Trade Fair 2006 will be held at China National Agricultural Exhibition Center from today to Sunday in Beijing.

The fair is one of the leading exhibitions on the international golf scene and also the biggest golf exhibition in Asia, showcasing merchandise, industrial equipment, and facilities.

United Airlines promotes special deal

By Chen Shasha

Return tickets from Beijing to the US costing 2,000 yuan will be on offer during the May holiday, according to United Airlines.

Almost all major US cities, except Hawaii and San Juan, are included in the deal. Tickets will be on sale in the waiting room in the United Airlines Beijing branch from April 17 to 28. People should pay cash and booking is not available.

The deal celebrates the 20th anniversary of United Airlines' entry into the Chinese market. The company now has flights from Beijing to 210 US cities.

Outlook

US, China OK deals to narrow trade gap

The US has won a string of commitments from China to narrow a record trade gap, but US industry groups said the real test could come next week in talks between Chinese President Hu Jintao and President Bush over China's currency system.

In the lead up to those discussions on April 20, top economic officials from both countries struck a series of deals on Tuesday in which China pledged to lift its ban on American beef, to crack down on the sale of pirated computer software and to

begin negotiations on allowing foreign firms to compete for Chinese government contracts.

Chinese Vice-premier Wu Yi, who led the Chinese delegation, said her country has been "earnestly implementing" the directions of China's top leaders to boost imports from the US.

Those deals included the signing a purchase agreement for 80 commercial jetliners from Boeing, at a list price of US\$4.6 billion.

China also made commitments to streamline the approv-

al of American medical devices for sale in China, to adjust capital requirements that American telecommunications companies see as a major barrier to setting up Chinese operations and to make sure new rules do not discriminate against US express delivery firms.

– AP

Analyst's Take:

The new deals can be regarded as an effort to narrow the trade gap between the two coun-

tries before Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to the US.

China's trade surplus with the US hit a record US\$202 billion last year. China's trade surplus in March soared to US\$11.2 billion. The trade balance problem ranks first among the two leaders' negotiation topics.

Besides the bilateral trade balance, the negotiation topics will also cover revaluation of the Chinese currency, China's intellectual property rights (IPR) protection efforts, the status of Taiwan and Tibet, and the hu-

man rights problem.

The US government also wants China to further open its markets, especially service sectors like the financial market.

The meeting between the two countries' leaders is expected to provide a direction and outline for the new stage's development, especially in economic and trade areas.

– Chen Fengying, director, Institute of World Economics, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (Qiu Jiaoning)

Sun rises in the East



By Jackie Zhang

Founded in 1982 at the University of Stanford, Sun Microsystems Inc. was based on the idea that “The network is the computer”. Less than 25 years on and the company is the leading provider of network computing systems, software services and solutions in the world.

Sun is also the biggest UNIX operation system provider. Its main products include the UltraSPARC series server, the X64 series, the Sun Ray desktop system and the SOLARIS operating system.

One of the unique things about Sun is that it publishes the source codes for its most important technologies online, allowing other IT companies, including their competitors, to use the technology to develop new products. Sun believes that the more companies there are developing new technologies, the more benefit they will get from it.

Beijing Today caught up with Fred Sit, general Manager of Sun Microsystems (China) Co., Ltd. last week to talk about the company, its development and how it protects its key technologies while making its source codes available to the public.

Q: What was Sun's business development strategy like when the company first entered China in 1987?

A: The first step we took was to promote our idea that “The network is the computer.” It is important for a company to establish its brand image among people and to connect with its customers. The concept has helped improve communication between sales/services of the company and its customers.

The second priority was to develop a partnership in China. We hoped to develop the market together with our reseller partners.

Then we had to set up and manage sales channels. The Chinese market is large. We needed resellers' support for coverage, logistics and processes. We put an emphasis on cooperation with partners because they can help us develop our business and distribute our products.

Another priority was to provide our customers with good quality service. Since most of our customers are big companies, it is essential that we provide them with top quality web services.

Finally, we provided our employees with training and development to ensure we had good quality staff in the company. We not only helped them understand the company's culture, concepts and values, we also helped them with their individual development.

Q: What is your understanding of the company's mantra that, “The network is the computer?”

A: It is a really simple sentence. “The network is the computer.” It is neither complicated nor abstract. It attracts people's attention, arouses people's ideas and interests. The more people talk about it, the more people understand the meaning behind it.

I remember that when we first came to China, most people did not know the managers of Sun but they knew the sentence “The network is the computer.”

Q: Sun has been in China for around 19 years. Which part of the business runs the best and which part still needs to be improved?

A: Generally speaking, Sun has done quite well

in many areas. We have been especially successful in telecommunications, Internet and broadband. For example, the JAVA technology that we created is used in many different environments, such as the Internet and mobile phones.

In the financial services sector, Sun has provided solution and services for banks. At present, banks need more open and user friendly computer systems to provide a decent level of customer service. Sun helps them transfer their computer systems to the UNIX platform to improve their service systems. Sun also helps banks set up data storage, customer analysis and Customer Relations Management (CRM) systems.

Where we need to improve is in providing technical support for numerous developing companies in China.

Sun's target customers so far have been big enterprises, as well as companies of medium and small size. The Chinese market is quite big and has lots of developing companies. We should pay more attention to them.

We have already started to provide technology to developing companies. We have launched a series of products called Galaxy X4100/4200 for exactly these businesses. It is a kind of AMD Opteron-based server and can be used in LINUX, WINDOWS and SOLARIS systems. We hope that by launching this series of products we will be able to gain new customers.

Q: What areas of the business will Sun focus on in 2006?

A: 3G is an important part of our business this year.

I believe that Sun's technology and experience will contribute a lot to the development of 3G in China. We have technical collaborations with 3G network equipment providers globally and in China for 3G testing platform.

Sun will put a lot of effort into customer service. We will also work to promote SOLARIS 10, the latest version of computer operation system launched last year.

We will also strengthen our cooperation with AMD, promoting our X64 products.

Q: What do you think about the IT industry in China at present?

A: I am optimistic about the IT industry in China. It continues to develop and grow. Our partner companies are also becoming increasingly professional. Customers are satisfied with the services they are getting and things have been improving since China entered the World Trade Organization. These factors have provided Sun with many great opportunities.

Q: What do you think of Chinese IT companies?

A: They are developing very quickly. They are continually inventing new technologies. Whether an IT company operates well or not depends on its choice of technologies, customers focus and the efficiency with which the company is managed.

Small enterprises also have opportunities to develop. Compared to big companies, these small enterprises are often more flexible. Whether these companies grow depends on their ability to develop new technology or new customer solutions.

Q: How does Sun protect its technological innovations and position in the industry when it puts its source codes online for other IT companies to use for free?

A: We publish the source codes of our operating



Fred Sit has worked in the IT industry for over 22 years. He joined Sun back in 1992 as the country Marketing Manager supporting the development of the company in two major directions: Network Computing and Mainframe Downsizing to UNIX in the early 1990s. After that, he became Channel Director, establishing a group of major SIs and partners which supported the vigorous growth of the Sun PRC operations from the mid-nineties until now. He became the country general manager for the PRC in 1997.

Before joining Sun, Fred was account manager with IBM Hong Kong and prior to that worked with Digital China.

He graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong with an MBA.V

systems so that other companies can study them and make changes and foster innovations.

SOLARIS is open sourced under Community Development and Distribution Licence which allows developers who make innovations based on the source to retain their intellectual property rights.

Q: Has Sun met any difficulties since setting up in China?

A: Generally speaking, the development of Sun has run smoothly. The development of a company is affected by the climate of the industry at the time. Since coming to China, Sun has maintained its advantage in the market. We are planning to focus more on X86 servers in the future, an area we have not put much emphasis on in the past, while continue to maintain our lead in the Enterprise UNIX market where we are strong.

Q: Sun has numerous partner companies in China. What do you think of these companies?

A: Since Sun entered China in 1987, we have worked with Chinese companies. Some of them work with us on channel distribution with product services and others on application development, called ISVs.

These companies have devoted staff and resources to cooperation. They have helped us provide solution plans for customers and improve our sales and management.

Q: How does Sun create products for the local Chinese market?

A: We established the Sun Engineering Research Institute in China as part of the global R&D and to address local market needs.

We have also worked with local-based ISVs to develop application software for local customers.

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The deadline for applications is Monday, 17 April 2006. If you have not heard from us by 30 April, your application was not successful. 申请截止期是: 2006年4月17日。如果你在4月30日前

还没有接到我们的通知, 这意味着, 你的申请没有被接纳。

CIRCULATION SALES REPRESENTATIVE FOR BEIJING TODAY 今日北京发行销售代表

The circulation department at Beijing Today has a vacancy for a circulation sales representative in Beijing. 今日北京的发行部招聘一位发行销售代表。

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- Responsible for media in the classroom projects as marketing, image-building and circulation building projects. 负责“媒体进入教室”项目, 以推进市场推广、品牌塑造以及发行推广的项目
- Administrative tasks relevant to the position. 与该职位相关的任务

Requirements: 要求

- Applicable tertiary training. 接受岗位培训
- Sound knowledge of sales. 销售经验
- Experience of advertising sales in a newspaper environment will be to the applicant's advantage. 有报纸广告销售经验是优势
- Applicants must have good communication skills. 有很强的沟通能力
- Self-motivated and goal-orientated. 独立工作和达到目标能力

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ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE FOR BEIJING TODAY

今日北京广告代表

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The ideal candidate must have good selling skills and must be able to communicate effectively at all levels. 该位置的理想人选必须有很好的销售技能, 以及与各层面人员有效沟通的能力。

Responsibilities include: 责任

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- Reaching set targets. 达到预定目标
- Servicing existing clients 为现有客户提供服务
- Administrative tasks relevant to the position 与该位置相关的任务

Requirements: 要求

- Applicable tertiary training. 接受岗位培训
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NBA star Wang Zhizhi returns home

By Chen Shasha

Wang Zhizhi, the first Asian player to join the America's National Basketball Association, came back to China on April 10 for the first time since being kicked out of the Chinese national basketball team four years ago.

When Wang Zhizhi's plane landed, top basketball officials were there to greet him. Meanwhile, Internet forums were abuzz with debate on the motive for Wang's return.

Wang Zhizhi, a 2.16-meter tall forward-center, formerly played for the Army's Bayi team. In 2001, he made his NBA debut with the Dallas Mavericks. In early 2002, he refused to represent China at the Asian Games in South Korea and was expelled from the national team. He has since remained in the United States, trying to forge an NBA career.

In July 2002, Kuang Lubin, coach of the China men's basketball team, went to the US for talks with Wang, but Wang refused to come home. In 2003, having overstayed his US visa, Wang Zhizhi requested the Bayi team apply for a private passport for him, to allow him to continue to play in the NBA, but this move did not succeed. That December, he signed a contract with Miami Heat.

In January 2004, in an interview with well-known US basketball magazine *InsideHoops*, Wang said he might return to China that summer to see his parents, but that never happened. In 2005, Wang contacted Kuang Lubin on his own initiative to say he hoped he could play for the national team again. However, he remained worried that he would not be able to play in the NBA again after coming back to China.

Over his four year's absence, many Chinese ball fans were concerned with Wang Zhizhi's fate, but as one Internet poster put it, "he disappointed us again and again."

Sorry

"I want to say sorry to my fans and to the Bayi team which gave me the chance to play in the NBA," Wang Zhizhi said after his return.

Domestic press reports did not say why Wang came back. In fact, Wang's NBA career stalled following the 2002 controversy, and he had been without a team after being cut by Miami Heat late last year. According to a report by the Associated Press in 2005, Wang made a bad career experiment in America. "He realizes he doesn't have many days left," said Simon Chan, Wang's US-based adviser. Chan added that Wang has been waiting for the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) to contact him and clarify his status, but has yet to hear nothing.

Wang's value to China's national team has never been in doubt. Li Yuanwei, director of the China Basketball Administration Center, went to the US three times this February to discuss with Wang about his return. The CBA says however that it is as yet unsure yet if Wang can re-join the national team. His presence would give a definite boost to the team at the World Championships in August in Japan and at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Yao Ming, who by contrast has had a brilliant NBA career with the Houston Rockets, and has always made himself available for the national team, welcomed Wang's return. "Wang Zhizhi returning home is good news for everyone. I really support his return and I genuinely

welcome him back," Yao told Chinese magazine *Basketball Pioneers*.

Positive

However, an Internet survey by sina.com found more than 400 thousand are still upset by Wang after his four year exile. One commenter wrote, "It is only because he's failed in America that he has come back. How can he be a good national team player if he doesn't like his Motherland? "A majority are still positive towards Wang, with more than 80 percent in the online survey believing he still has great strength and can be a major force in the national team. After Yao Ming was injured on April 11, many placed their hopes on Wang instead. Some 85 percent of those surveyed think he can make up for the absence of Yao.

Wang Zhizhi started training on April 11, the day after his return. He said he will make every effort to keep in top condition for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Wang Zhizhi's return is the latest in a number of homecomings for 'trouble-making' famous athletes that will help China in her strongest ever line-up at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Not long after Li Yuanwei went courting Wang Zhizhi, the Tennis Administrative Center brought maverick player Peng Shuai back into the national team last November. Attention turned to Tian Liang, a 27-year-old Olympic gold medalist in the 10-meter platform diving at the Sydney Games in 2000, who was expelled from China's national team for excessive commercial activities, and then refused to come back to the team after the Athens Games. But Zhou Jihong, China's national diving team manager, said the Swimming Administrative Center will not seek Tian's return.



Wang Zhizhi back in Beijing.

CFP Photo

Thousands help dying girl's dream come true

By Han Manman

An eight-year old blind girl Zhu Xinyue, who was dying of an inoperable brain tumor, received a successful lifesaving operation on Tuesday. Xinyue became famous when her plight moved 2,000 people who cooperate in a white lie that helped her fulfill her dream of attending the flag-raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square.

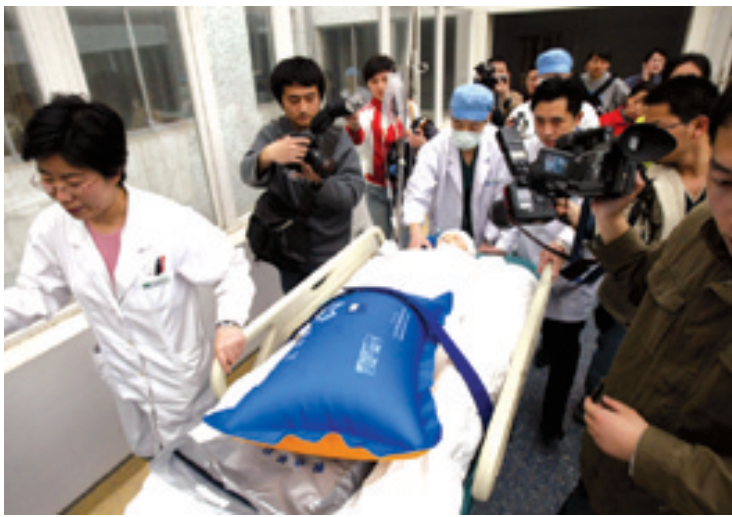
On Tuesday afternoon at Beijing Fuxing Sanbo Hospital, when Doctor Shi Xiangen, who is in charge of Xinyue's case, emerged from the operating theater and announced, "Xinyue's operation went more smoothly than expected, and a seven centimeter tumor has been successfully removed." The new brought joy to the waiting crowd of nurses, journalists, photographers and concerned members of the public.

Although there is still a tumor in Xinyue's brain and several days of observation will

be needed to tell if she can recover her sight, it seems the little girl has come nearer to realizing her dream.

Xinyue's symptoms first appeared last October when she fainted playing in her schoolyard in Changchun in Jilin. She was diagnosed as having a brain tumor and became blind. Responsible for raising the flag at her school, Zhu Xinyue loves to see flag-raising ceremonies and hear the national anthem. She told her father, Zhu Dechun, she wanted to participate in the flag-raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square.

Her father was desperate to fulfill his daughter's dream but worried as her physical condition worsened. Finally Zhu Dechun came up with the seemingly ridiculous idea making a long trip around Changchun and then finding a local field where the flag could be raised and the national anthem could be played. He would tell little Xinyue this



Xinyue's tumor surgery was a qualified success.

CFP Photo

was Tiananmen.

A local newspaper reported on Xinyue's story and the planned 'Tiananmen' flag-raising ceremony in Changchun. People who read her story in the newspaper volunteered to take part to fulfill Xinyue's wish.

The elaborate scheme was

put in motion. A site for the ceremony was chosen at Changchun Public Relations School. In order to convince Xinyue she was on her trip to Beijing, more than 2,000 Changchun residents played different roles in the deception. Some played tourists with different regional accents on a

bus to Beijing, some pretended to be tour guides, and carefully added details like police, highway toll collectors and bus conductors were included.

Xinyue and her cast of supporting actors finally arrived at Changchun Public Relations School, where all the students had gathered on the playground silently waiting for her.

When the national anthem sounded and when they saw the contented smile beam from little Xinyue's face, many couldn't hold back tears of joy and grief.

Xinyue's story has spread across Changchun and eventually reached Beijing. Experts from Beijing Sanbo Fuxing Neurosurgical Hospital who heard the story decided to perform surgery for the girl.

"As long as my daughter can recover some sight, even just to see a little light, I will take her to see the real flag-raising ceremony in Tiananmen Square," said Xinyue's father.

Yachts next hot toy for China's new rich

By Annie Wei

They've bought big houses, expensive cars, and have played golf. Now yachting seems to be the next big thing for China's new rich.

The 11th China International Boat Show closed in Shanghai last weekend. The four-day event claims to be the largest of its kind in Asia. The Shanghai Bohua International Exhibition Company, the organizer, said 320 exhibitors took part in the event, showing 182 boats, including 52 yachts. The number of exhibitors and boats were up 25 percent and 20 percent respectively on the preceding year's show.

Famous boat brands like Sunseeker, Ferretti Group, Fraser Yachts, Princess and Benette were on show alongside others from Italy, France, Australia and New Zealand in the 25,000 square meter exhibition hall.

"Many participants made good deals this time," said Ou Yang, a PR representative for Ruderfinn. "Although not all participants reported their revenue to us," she said, "most say it's promising and higher than expected."

Wealthy

Exhibitors also reported that visitors were a noticeably more wealthy type than in previous years, according to Ou Yang.

Gao Haiyan, also from the organizing company, said that yachting in China was only in its very early stages. "We have organized such events for 11 years. People only started noticing it recently," she said, "Water sports were never very popular in China."

But Gao feels overall the trend is very pleasing now. "People's incomes are increasing and they're wealthy enough to make enjoying boating or yachting possible."

"More and more Chinese have been abroad," Gao said, "Their experiences mean yachting is not a luxury but a lifestyle to them. It also attracts the younger generation."

Gao refuses to give a price for any of the yachts. "My clients, especially the boat and yacht companies from Europe, do not want the public to think sailing is a luxury pursuit. They hope people will see sailing as an attainable lifestyle."

Xu Xiaolin, from Benetau S.A, a French boat and yacht builder, and an exhibitor in Shanghai, said that they sold a yacht to a Shenzhen client during the show. "Most of our clients are from south China, which has a better environment for mooring yachts and sailing."

Liu Zhen, a manager at the Shenzhen Langqi Yachting Club, said quite a few Beijing people keep yachts at their club, "Sometimes they come to sail with their friends or business partners."

Adidas under fire for racist shoes

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The German sports giant Adidas is now facing protests from Asian Internet users and anti-racists for using an ugly Asian face in a new design, which many see as an insult to Asian people.

The new shoe Y1 HUF of the Yellow Series was released by Adidas earlier this month as a limited edition, designed by graffiti artist Barry McGee. On the tongue of the shoe, there is an Asian face with bowl cut hair, slant eyes, and buck teeth. The word 'Fong' is written on the back. The shoe is named Ray Fong. Fong is a very common Asian family name.

"This image perpetuates negative stereotypes of Asians, and Adidas should not be allowed to make money with such a concept. Adidas needs to know that this is not a fashion statement - it's an insult", said Vincent Pan, executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action in San Francisco.

McGee, the artist, is himself half-Chinese and has used Asian caricatures in his past artwork. He says it is a subversive statement on self identity and to prompt thinking about racial issues. However, without any knowledge of the context, many consumers are angry that Adidas could promote such an image.

"I am not an Asian, but I would not wear shoes like this that might make me legally liable for spreading a racist message", said one



The controversial image



Yellow Series shoe Photos by Adidas.com

customer.

A spokesman for Adidas has insisted the company will support the product, saying, "Adidas will stand for self-expression. This kind of reclaiming of a stereotype is frequent in Asian American art and cinema. It's a form of *detournement*."

The Adidas office in China has not made any comment about the Ray Fong shoes. Ms Li from the press office said that the Yellow Series may not be introduced to the Chinese market.

Earthquake survivor in quest to thank rescuers

By Chen Shasha

Zhang Xindong, a survivor of the 1976 Tangshan earthquake, is cycling from Hebei province to Beijing to seek out and thank the people who came to the aid of the stricken town in the aftermath of the disaster.

Thirty years ago, in July 1976, soldiers came from all over China to help rescue survivors of the Tangshan quake, a disaster that took the lives of more than 260 thousand people. A then ten-year-old Zhang Xindong was pulled from a ruined house by an army rescue team. "My mother gave me life once, and then the PLA gave me a second chance to live," says Zhang, who hopes to find and thank his rescuers in person.

Zhang Xindong is now a famous and successful calligrapher. He could easily pay to fly to Beijing, but wants to make his journey a tribute to the difficulties experienced by the rescuers in 1976. Soldiers traveled on foot through the night to reach Tangshan because the massive quake had destroyed roads into the city.

Zhang has bought a tricycle which he has decked out with big posters showing Tangshan, and a portrait of Deng Xiaoping. Zhang and his tricycle attracted a lot of attention along the way as he cycled to Beijing. At every stop on the route, he told the crowds about what happened 30 years ago and how people from all over the country helped Tangshan.

Some have accused Zhang of attention-seeking, but he said, "Actually, I don't care what people think of me, though I do get very tired. The only thing I am upset about is that after a month on the road I still haven't



Zhang Xindong and his decorated tricycle.

Photo provided by Zhang Xindong found anyone from the rescue teams." Army officials could only tell Zhang that the rescuers have now retired and that no contacts for them are available, and he has been unable to visit military residences due to problems getting permission.

Zhang Xinzong, is currently staying in Beijing. Li Mei, a grassroots official in one of the city's neighborhoods, has now volunteered to help Zhang with his quest. Li Mei said, "I can't believe there are still people like Zhang, using his own money to express his gratitude as a quake survivor. It's hard to help him since it's not easy to tell who really was one of Tangshan rescuers."

The occasional false claim to have been rescuer that Zhang has met hasn't deterred him from continuing his search in Beijing, and he intends to cycle on to Shanghai and Baoding too. He will bow down in the traditional mark of gratitude and respect to any rescuer he meets. "I don't just want to offer thanks at the Tangshan monument every year. I would like to pay my respects to the living people who once risked their lives to save ours."

Cheap multi-pass tickets for 30 tourist spots

By Annie Wei

Sightseers can visit 30 tourist locations in the Beijing area and get discounts at 20 holiday resorts for one hundred yuan thanks to a new multi-pass ticket that includes the Great Wall at Juyongguang, Hei-

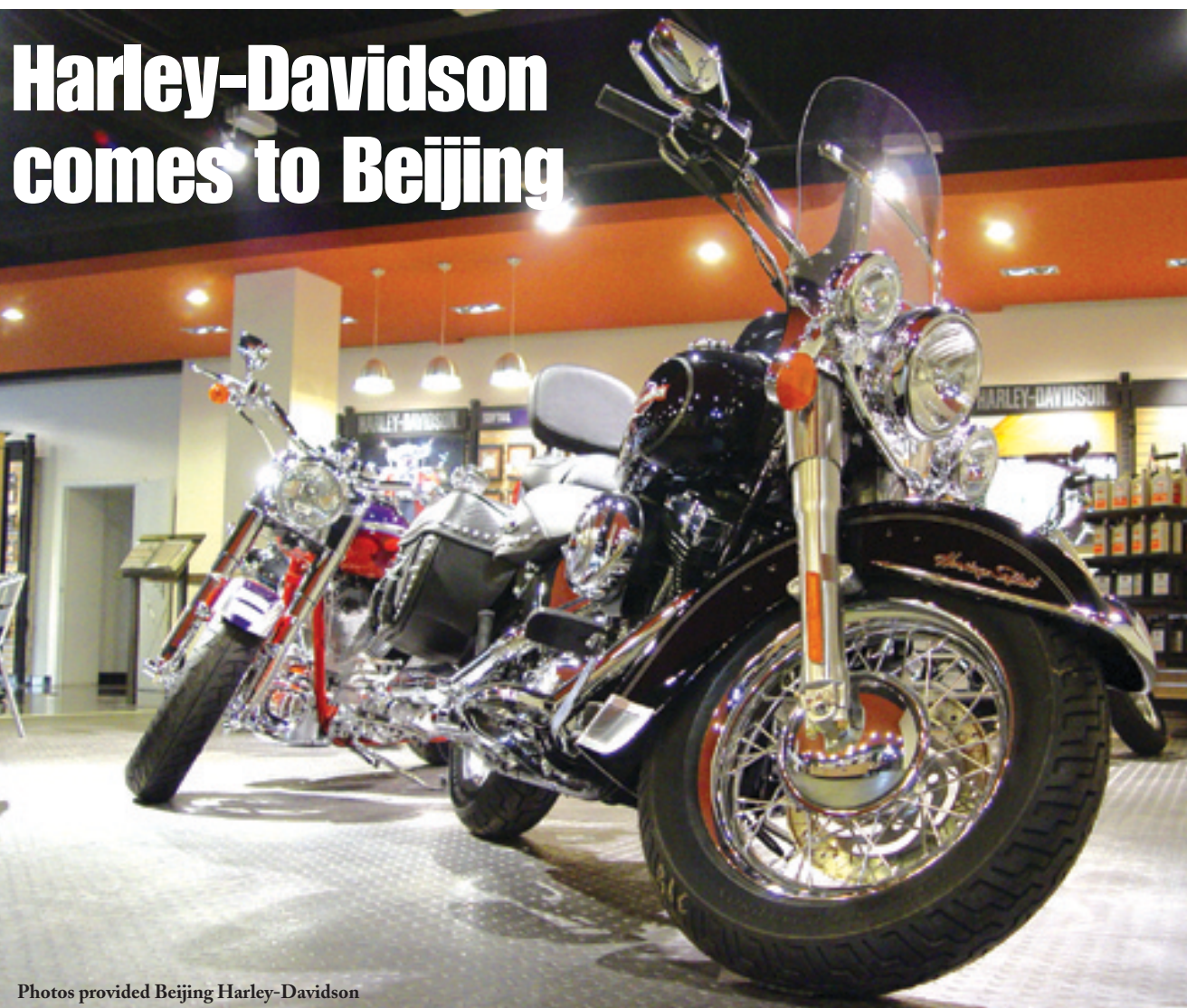
longtan, and Simatai.

The individual ticket prices for all locations would total to 800 yuan, and holders of the multi-pass ticket have unlimited access for one year. The ticket only costs 60 yuan for students and the over 60s.

Tickets go on sale from this Sunday until June 30 from ten parks (including Ritan Park and Tuanjiehu Park) and seven Xinhua bookstores in Zhongguancun and Haidian districts. The ticket comes with a free guidebook. Hotline: 8516 6720



Harley-Davidson comes to Beijing



Photos provided Beijing Harley-Davidson

By Lucky Zhang

Top US motorcycle producer Harley-Davidson opened its first and only authorized store in Beijing last weekend.

Beijing Harley-Davidson, operated by Beijing FHL Motorcycle Club, is located at Dongfeng Nanlu, by the North Fourth Ring Road. Three types of Harley-Davidson bikes – Touring, V-Rod and Soft Tail – are on sale.

The store has had around 400 visitors (half of them foreigners) since it opened, according to Shao Boming, the sales representative. "To date, we have

done around 70,000 yuan business, including selling four bikes, as well as souvenirs like wallets, glasses, hats, belts, and small badges."

During the interview Shao took a call from the United States. "I think that this customer is collecting Harley-Davidson souvenirs from stores in different countries," Shao said.

Besides the motorcycles and souvenirs, the store also sells Harley-Davidson accessories and fittings, and provides customers with customizing services. "Almost all the people buying motorcycles won't keep its original appearance and get them customized in

order to appear unique. The prices are different according to their requirements," Shao said.

"We plan to add more things in the store in the future," said Zhao Hui, the manager. "Of course, we plan to start chain stores. However, it depends on the business operation and the market in Beijing."

Beijing Harley-Davidson is also getting involved with the Beijing Harley-Davidson Motorcycle club. People who have bought Harley-Davidson motorcycles will become VIP members automatically. People who have not bought a motorcycle can also join the club.



Photo provided by China Science and Technology Museum

Free exhibition and dance performance from Xishuangbanna

By Chen Shasha

One hundred and six rare animals from the tropical rainforest of Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province are on display at the China Science and Technology Museum till May 8, admission free.

It is the largest exhibition of tropical rainforest animals in Beijing. The exhibition is divided into two parts. One asks the question why Xishuangbanna forms the largest tropical rain forest in China. A rich variety of the flora and fauna of Xishuangbanna are on show, including endangered species. Clouded leopards, sloth monkeys, and other animals under top-level state protection are on display.

The other part of the exhibition reveals the exciting ethnic cultures of Xishuangbanna. It displays the culture of the minorities of Hani, Dai, and Pu'er tea, which make Xishuangbanna an ideal travel destination.

The Xishuangbanna exhibition opens from 9 am to 4:30 pm and is closed on Mondays. Ethnic dancing and singing shows take place in front of the exhibition hall from 10:30 to 11:30 am and from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. During the water-sprinkling festival from April 13 to 15, programs will be held in the museum to celebrate the traditional festival of Dai.

Quality jade or worthless stone, place your bets

By Annie Wei

China is a country that has worshipped jades for centuries, and to meet the demands of jade collectors and fans, 'Aika Collect and Keep the Article International Communication Market' by the North Third Ring Road started its third 'blind auction' or 'jade-stone-betting' event this week.

'Jade-stone betting' is originally from the border of Yunnan Province and Myanmar, an area famous for producing jade.

The trade is called jade-stone-betting because when a trader buys the stone he is not sure what kind of jade is hidden inside, so a good knowledge of jade is very important. If the stone contains large amount of high quality jade, he makes a fortune, if not he has a worthless lump of rock.

The organizer brought over ten tons of jade stones



Photo by Du Hanyi

from Yunnan Province and Myanmar to Beijing. Du Hanyi, director of the event, said that there would be more than 100 stones in the market.

All jade stones exhibited in the event have been checked by jade experts. Du said, "Experts have made sure that they all contain jade, and there is a basic evaluation about the type and the quantity of the jade inside. But only cutting the stone can reveal the jade content."

Each stone has a price estimated by the experts, Du said, "The highest estimated price is eight million yuan now."

The jade stones will be displayed from now till April 28. On April 29 the stones will be auctioned off, Du said. According to Du, 80 percent of buyers will cut the stone and the rest will keep it as a collection piece or an investment.

Beijing international walking event for all the family

By Han Manman

One thousand walkers from all over the world are expected to take part in the fifth Beijing International Great Wall Walking Convention at Simatai Great Wall next Sunday.

Participants can register to join before next Tuesday. The event is being organized by the China Volkssport Association (CVA) and China Great Wall Society.

According to Zhao Yingxin, spokesman of CVA, there are two routes, eight kilometers and 10 kilometers. It is non-competitive and organizers encourage participants to complete whatever distance they can.

The day also includes extra activities like folk dance performances, helping to clean up garbage on the Great Wall, and a photography contest. Two



Photo provided by CVA

walking clubs from Estonia and Australia will also participate.

Volkssports, literally translated, means 'people's sport'. It began around three decades ago in Europe to meet a demand for healthy, organized, non-competitive activities, suitable for people of all ages and their families. Local 'Volkssport' clubs, which sponsored events for walking, cycling, swimming, and cross-country skiing, soon developed and the movement grew rapidly.

CVA, previously known as Beijing Today Walking Center, became the first Chinese member club of the International Federation of Popular Sports or IVF (Internationaler Volkssportverband) in 2004.

The application fee for the event is 70 yuan for members, 85 yuan for non-members. Applicants could either go to a branch of Gome Appliances or Beijing Friendship Store, or call 84896320 (English service provided) to register.

Government reclaims administration of Great Wall

By Jiang Xubo

Authorities reclaimed operation rights of the Badaling Great Wall from private organizations this week. All the income from entrance tickets will go towards protecting the wall.

The government will erect 130 signs (both in Chinese and English) for travel directions in the area before May 1. Tickets will still cost 45 yuan (about US\$6).

"The return is a breakthrough in the efforts to protect the Great Wall. It will provide better protection for the heritage site," said Huang Yongren, director of Academic Activity Department of China Great Wall Society, a national NGO set up to protect the Great Wall.

Negotiations between the government and three companies over the management of this section have taken place since 2003.

Administrative Measures of Beijing Municipality for the Protection of the Great Wall, issued in 2003, laid the foundations for the reclamation. It says that no units or individuals are allowed to manage the Great Wall as their own asset.

The Badaling Tourism Development Company, a joint adventure, became a member enterprise of Beijing Enterprises Holdings in 1997 and listed on Hong Kong stock market the same year. The management of the Badaling section has remained with these listed companies ever since.



Photo by Lei Hong

Puppy sniffer dogs start training

By Jiang Xubo

Six Labrador puppies from Australia started 'school' at a sniffer-training center of Beijing Customs after their one-month long quarantine ended this week.

"We have to give orders in English now. But we will train them to understand Chinese," a trainer said.

The puppies, aged from six to 12 months, will be first trained to have courage. Three months long systematic training, including searching and finding things, begins at the age of 14 months. The prospective sniffer dogs have to go through three rounds of selection, each consisting of seven sets of exams, before they could go on duty.

"They will drop out if they fail any of those examinations. There are no second chances," said Wang Zhigang, director of the training center.

The sniffer dogs are gifts from the Australian Customs. This is the first time China has bought puppy sniffer dogs from abroad. A total of some 20 puppies are expected to arrive within this year, according to co-operation arrangements between the two countries' customs for sniffer dog training and breeding.

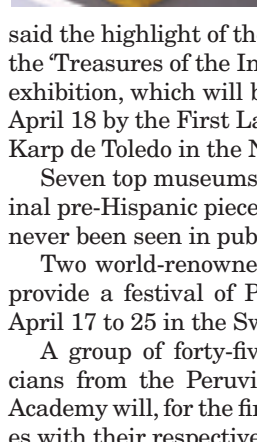
Australian Labrador sniffers enjoy world-wide fame for their robustness, sensitive noses, and good customs work.

Incan delights come to Beijing

By Han Manman

Beijing will enjoy a South American flavor next week as Inca artifacts and Peruvian chefs and dancers come to town for Peruvian Culture Week.

Luis Vicente Chang Reyes, ambassador of Peru



said the highlight of the culture week will be the 'Treasures of the Inca and His Ancestors' exhibition, which will be officially opened on April 18 by the First Lady of Peru, Dr Eliane Karp de Toledo in the National Museum.

Seven top museums contributed 248 original pre-Hispanic pieces, some of which have never been seen in public before.

Two world-renowned Peruvian chefs will provide a festival of Peruvian cuisine from April 17 to 25 in the Swissotel.

A group of forty-five dancers and musicians from the Peruvian National Folklore Academy will, for the first time, present dances with their respective indigenous costumes from the coast, mountains and jungle.

New Yorkers in Beijing: finding the perfect actresses



By Annie Wei

Many years ago, American Rachel Dewoskin performed in the Chinese soap opera *Foreign Babes in Beijing*. Last year, her book of the same name was published and reviewed in many western newspapers.

Nowadays, there are more chances for expats to appear in Chinese TV soap operas.

In Longdu International Apartment located in Yayuncun, north of Beijing, Cao Guilin and other directors and producers screened new talent.

They were selecting actors and actresses for a 30-episode Chinese TV soap opera, currently called *New Yorkers in Beijing*. Although it is easy for expatriates to get roles on many Chinese TV ads or programs, important roles in modern Chinese TV operas are rare.

Living in the US for many years, Cao became famous after writing and directing the very successful Chinese TV opera *Beijingers in New York* 20 years ago. The TV drama described how a Chinese intellectual immigrated and struggled in New York. It was widely recognized all over China at the time.

"Audiences love those episodes



Cao (right) talking with actors

Photos by Tian Yufeng

and asked me to write the series," Cao said. "Now, after twenty years, I have come out with a new script." The story does not happen outside of China. Instead, it's about the lives of two Chinese-American girls in Beijing.

Cao said that many of his friends had lived in the US, and the story was based on his observations of the following generation. The two main characters are called Jenny and Susan, aged between 21 and 25, and speak English and Chinese well. Definitely, there will be many scenes reflecting the foreign community in Beijing.

Cao admitted that they haven't found the ideal actresses for the roles yet. "I have seen more than four or five hundred actors and actresses," Cao said. He received

many phone calls from abroad. "Many overseas Chinese girls from France, the UK, and the US said that they would pay for the flight themselves to attend the auditions."

Like most young expatriates in Beijing, Jenny and Susan rent a nice apartment in Beijing, which they share with Shuang Xi, a Chinese man from the countryside. The pre-designed apartment that Susan and Jenny share looks like the 7,000 yuan-a-month places many expats live in.

"These girls are struggling to pay the rent all the time," Cao said. "Rent is always a hassle for urban young dwellers all over the world."

The series is mainly about these three people, as well as Tang Daye and Dama (Mr And Ms Tang, an old, stereotypical Beijing couple).

Pointing to pictures of foreign actors and actresses on the wall, Cao said, "Well, these are pretty good candidates for some of the smaller roles."

Shadow, a Chinese American stage musical artist whose workshop is in 798 District also came for a trial. "I heard about it last weekend when some friends came to see my show and they suggested I should audition," she said. The audition was not very complicated, just acting some parts from the script. Although Cao hasn't signed any actors or actresses yet, Shadow's agent said that Cao was very pleased with her and promised her she would perform in two episodes.

Shooting will begin at Fragrant Hills in May, but before that there is still a chance to secure a role.

Foreigner searching for nurse for his street dog

By Chen Shasha

Recently, a 'call for help' post was put up at the Meiran Compound Chaoyang District, claiming a dog named Bingo needed help. Jon 'Boon' Durr, Bingo's owner, a professor from America, formerly taught at Beijing and Tsinghua universities and now teaches at Dell International English School.

According to Boon, Bingo needs a daytime nurse to take him outside three or four times a day.

Last October, when Boon first encountered Bingo on the street, the dog was nearly dead. It made Boon feel so sad that he took him to a pet hospital. Bingo had pneumonia and was in need of medical attention. Boon decided to take him



Boon and Bingo

home as his pet.

Now, Bingo is in good health and likes to play. However, Boon is increasingly busy and finds hard to look after him day and night. He decided to find a nurse for Bingo. A stipend will be paid and English lessons will be given by Boon in exchange.

A dozen people have contacted Boon, but he has not made up his mind yet. "I want someone who really loves dogs, but some just contacted me to improve their English," he said.

Apart from the message at Meiran, there is also a website featuring funny pictures of Bingo. The website, www.8x8.biz/bingo, is in English and Chinese.

Community

Jewelry: the inside track

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Do you really know about the little things around your neck or on your ears and fingers? Or how to choose perfect pearls according to your budget, age, figure and taste? Gemologist Keturah Mason gave professional and practical assistance at Beijing Central Art Gallery this week.

The samples Keturah presented included oysters and the different types of pearls: freshwater, seawater, South Sea, Mabe, and Tahitian. Guests passed around a pair of earrings made from Mabe pearls to observe their diamond shape.

"Do you put the pearls round your neck in front of a mirror? If so, the dealer would recognize you as a layman at once. What you should do first is roll up your sleeves, then observe the pearls on the inside of your forearms. Now the dealer would think 'this is someone who knows about pearls!' and show you some respect," said Keturah, matching a string of pearls on her arm.

The order of essential factors when choosing a pearl, Keturah suggests, is luster, size, shape, and match. Cost, however, is the last consideration. Usually, how they match up is not a huge consideration



Keturah Mason displaying samples

Photo by Wang Xiaoyuan



Some of Mason's collection

for most buyers. Here it means the unity of luster, size and shape. "It is interesting that women's choices of pearls vary with age. In middle age, you would not like to enter a room wearing something big and vulgar," she said.

Besides introducing the characteristics of different pearls, another important task is to tell the guests how to care for their jewelry. "Why do my expensive pearls become yellowish over the years?" asked one woman. Keturah said this was a natural process. "Pearls can grow creamy, yellowish and even darken. What we

should do is try to protect them according to the temperature, humidity and the pearls' own characteristics."

Many guests came for the first time. Linde Behringer, from Seattle, is visiting her daughter in Beijing and just popped into the talk and found it interesting. "Although I am not a real jewelry fan, it is good to have some knowledge and now I will be able to take care of the pearls my grandma left me," she said. Greice, from Brazil, found the one-hour guide an ideal way to kill time in the afternoon.

After receiving a number of requests, Keturah is now preparing a course for jade.

The owners of Beijing Central Art Gallery & Cultural Venue are Robert Mason (from the UK) and Keturah Mason (originally from Hong Kong). Both of them have degrees in the study of jewelry. Keturah is an experienced designer and qualified gemologist. They have run the gallery for one year, promoting the work of established and young emerging artists in Beijing.

To know more about the gallery and Keturah's jewelry courses, please visit the website: www.bjcgallery.com; or ring 65859902.

"Can you cook it western style?"

By Han Manman / Gareth George

Everyone knows China's changing and opening up to the wider world. But what about the people? Are tastes diversifying with the economic tidal wave? Does your average Beijinger know his bratwurst from his baozi? *Beijing Today* finds out:

Li Changshui, Car park attendant

I like western food, my children also like it. But it is a little bit expensive for me. I like fruit salad and bread and western style meat dishes. I don't know the names...is that western food?

Meng Guifang, unemployed.

I never eat western food. I'm come from Shandong province, so I like noodles. Actually, I wish I knew how to cook western food, because I'm trying to find a job as a housekeeper. The people at the agency say it will help if I can add that to my resume.

Zhu Xiulan, 'Lady of leisure'.

I have tried western food, but I don't like it. I think it lacks vitamins, and is too meat heavy. I have visited European countries, but I can't remember the names of the dishes I tried.

Han Nuo, office worker

I love western food, because it's not Chinese! I like the fact that it's so different. What I love most is French food, especially snails. They are really tasty.

Zhang Xu, business man.

I eat western food but not much. My family and me like to eat and cook at home. When we go out to eat, I always choose Sichuan cuisine. I like spicy food. When it comes to western restaurants, I like Brazilian barbecue.

Zhang Xiaojun, waiter at 'W' sports bar and restaurant.

I've worked in this restaurant for almost one year. More and more Chinese are coming here to try western food. Maybe it's the food, or maybe it's because the owner is a famous Swedish ping-pong player (Jan-Ove Waldner). I guess Chinese make up 30 percent of our customers right now.



Li Changshui



Meng Guifang



Zhu Xiulan



Han Nuo



Zhang Xu



Zhang Xiaojun

BJ'S LOVE & HATE

Their day will come

By Tom Mackenzie

There are a lot of things Beijing has a lot of. People, for instance. Cars, bicycles, buildings, expat brats, dogs in dresses, frogs on sticks... the basic building blocks of any modern city.

It's also filled with – and you may not have noticed them, so brace yourself – security guards. After taxi drivers and sidewalk DVD sellers, they have to be the largest single group of employees in the city.

Usually aged between 16 and 20 (but sometimes look suspiciously younger) and sporting hastily assembled uniforms decorated with dubious-looking badges and occasionally the odd walkie talkie, they guard the city.



Wang Jifu, a security guard at the Beijing Youth Daily building

They guard office buildings, banks, bicycles, apartments, supermarkets, schools, street corners and shops. There are probably even security guards guarding the guards.

Beijing does security guards like London does cocaine or Paris does riots.

In the morning and early evening, if you listen carefully, you can sometimes hear them training, doing push-ups with their squad leaders and practicing their parade skills.

And I admire them. No doubt lured by the prospect of a neatly pressed uniform, an ounce of power and the prospect of at some point saving the day, they joined up only to find themselves standing for 12-hour shifts opening doors for diners or pressing the up button on elevators.

At the office the same guard will be there when you arrive and the same guard will open the door for you when you leave. In some offices they spend their days taking the elevator to the top and walking down, going along every hallway and passing every room.

They work in a city that is safer than most western capitals. Surrounded by other security guards and dozens of CCTV cameras, they are trained to phone the police if anything kicks off.

The pay is bad (an average salary is 600 yuan a month), the hours are long and the uniforms often don't fit.

But most hold themselves with a dogged defiance and a look in their eyes that says: "I may be opening doors now but one day, my day will come."



Chic blossoms in spring



I was invited to Salon Chic 2006 last week at the International Exhibition Center. It was something of an eye opener. Having in mind places like Paris (Hey, I'm French !!!), Shanghai, Hong Kong and, I had always thought that Beijing was a step behind in fashion terms.

Discovering Salon Chic 2006 I realized I might have been right... a few years ago. Beijing fashion is actually doing well and it seems that it's doing its best to stay in the game. The salon was a success, so many interesting shows and so many people! Beautiful models, fancy brands, fashionable Beijing girls...

This was a real fashion showcase, one that even in France, we wouldn't have missed : professionals, designers, buyers, journalists and photographers everywhere, everybody was there! I can't wait for Chic 2007...



Clothes you can wear



Is being upside down fashionable?



Squeeze in



Pose and smile



Fashion is exhausting.



Squeeze into anything?



Beauty and guards

Romain Degoul, Photographer, French, 28
Photographs as a hobby when I was 15. It was only after graduating in business law and taking a long trip to Africa that I decided to follow a career in photography. My love of freedom and for travel, my curiosity towards this world and my strong will to try to understand it better, led me to make this choice. Presently, I work for the French press agency REA, which sells my works to various renowned European newspapers and magazines.



More color, more money



Piles of promotional materials? Check!

Viktor Rolf fall 2006



Jun Takahashi of Undercover



Lacosta, spring and summer 2006



The woman in a shell



Greta Garbo

Hollywood is called the dream-maker that lures and collects gorgeous women and makes their dreams come true, creating various screen goddesses remembered by people all over the world. Among those pretty faces, Greta Garbo is remembered publicly for the 'Garbo Mystique,' just like the puzzle of the Sphinx. She said farewell to showbiz at the splendid age of 36, staying in a shell of absolute seclusion for the remaining 48 years of her life.

Her sense of timing was astonishing, when to make her entrance and her exit – perhaps she learned something from *Anna Karenina*, in which she was cast as Anna. In that film, one of Anna's suitors went out of this love affair in time and finally got his own love.

During her transitory period on the big screen, she was very strict with herself and was not satisfied with her work. Her sets were closed to all visitors and sometimes even the director. When asked why, she said: "During these scenes I allow only the cameraman and lighting man on the set. When people are watching, I'm just a woman making faces for the camera. It destroys the illusion. If I am by myself, my face will do things I cannot do with it otherwise."

For this Swedish Sphinx, whose eyes expressed "a limited but intense emotional range" (Bosley Crowther, *New York Times* film critic from 1940 to 1967), her leading men had to have a special quality and strong magnetism to match her presence. Actors who possessed that unique chemistry often appeared with her repeatedly, like John Gilbert, Lewis Stone and Melvyn Douglas. She disliked Clark Gable, a feeling that was mutual. She said his acting was wooden and he said she was a snob.

Despite so many leading men she never married, even though one of them – John Gilbert – was waiting for her at the altar in 1927, but she got cold feet.

With the exception of the beginning of her film career she granted no interviews, signed no autographs, attended no premieres and answered no fan mail. She lived in the shadows in New York, and no limelight or cameras could spot her after the movie *Two-Faced Woman* was released in 1941.

Her post-Hollywood life was spent jet setting with international tycoons and socialites such as Aristotle Onassis, as well as gardening, until her death in New York in April 1990.

By Shelley Xie

As spring sees the awakening of colorful life, tender breezes and rich raindrops, in Beijing, it is the diverse colors of scarves that make the streets come alive. There are women on bicycles who bury their heads behind gauze kerchiefs to protect against sandstorms. There are window-shoppers copying the classic style of Audrey Hepburn in *Charade* – a tightly wrapped headscarf to protect against sharp winds.

On the catwalks, either at home or abroad, the latest trend is to cover up instead of baring it all. Masks, veils, silk stockings and tights cover exposed skin, even models' pretty faces. It seems that the Muslim and Arab tradition of covering the face has spread and influenced the whole world. No wonder there were whispers of the 'Muslimification' of fashion among the front-row crowds at the Paris fall 2006 collections.

"It's the new modesty," said trend forecaster Merrill Greene. "It's what's under the clothes, something seething underneath. We won't be showing it so much on the surface." The following is to help you make sure you are trendy this fall by covering up.

Masks

At Comme des Garçons, Rei Kawakubo has been inspired to meld men's wear and women's wear. "The play of masculine and feminine was just a way to express different aspects of personality," said the designer. She invited Stephen Jones to create fedoras-cum-Venetian-masks for her models that further blurred the distinctions between male and female.

The message that Viktor & Rolf's show gave us is that a twenty-first century power woman can never be too safe. From little black day dresses to electroplated party frocks, the models wore fencing masks made from braided human hair. "It's a mixed message," said designers Horsting and Snoeren. "On the one hand, the veil, or armor, if you will, is a reference to a thing of beauty; on the other, it's a tool to guard yourself from negative influences."

Japanese designer Jun Takahashi covers his models' heads in fabrics such as leather, gauze, or wool. "I think it's beautiful," he says. The hoods feature elaborate pierced and studded decorations.

Headscarves

People enjoy letting their hair down at the weekends, but during the week they have to dress up and be presentable in society. How can wrapping up provide a feeling of security?

"The scarf is the most versatile accessory," says Donna Karan. From the colorful headscarves to white veils and black mantillas, a long piece of silk, gauze and chiffon keeps the privacy of its mistress and also speaks to the public.

Former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis treasured the headscarf and sunglasses for their ability to preserve mystique. This portrait can be seen today on many celebrities.

Going back even further, Dolley Madison, First Lady in the US in 1809, tried to popularize turbans for women when she returned from traveling around Europe. Her own turbans, decorated with 'birds of paradise' feathers, gave her a taste for the classical imperialist look.

The western custom of female head coverings for happy and sad times – a white veil for weddings, a black one for funerals, is becoming popular in the east. On the stage of China Fashion Week, Peruvian designer Ali Esau Ormeno Yori tells a Peruvian love story on his wedding gown, on which he "uses the cloak to symbolize privacy".

Tights

Despite the coming of hot weather, designers have waved adieu to the navel-baring sexuality of skimpy tops and low-waist jeans. Necklines are up while hemlines are hovering down at the knees. Matching a pair of boots with skirts or knee-length shorts has replaced sleek tights and pointy high-heeled shoes.

In Paris, at Givenchy, Riccardo Tisci put his bespectacled models into stiff dresses and opaque tights. At Rochas, the modest mood was reflected in Olivier Theyskens' skinny, chimney-sweeper-inspired pantsuits and monastic evening gowns. At Han Song and Yishion S in China, the designers covered skin with soot black stockings and knee-length Bermuda shorts and pleated skirts.



Hempel shows titling 'dressing the bride' of China Fashion Week autumn and winter 2006/2007

Give me a coat!



BYO Bag
By Built NY (US)

Wine is the party drink that everyone loves. This BYO bag is convenient and safely holds two bottles.



Office golf putting set
By Connolly (UK)

This box has slots to contain all the golf equipment in your office playground. The putter has a handle made from ebony, fossilized mammoth ivory and parchment leather and comes in a calf-and-velvet box.



City in the bag
By Muji (Japan)

With Paris' Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe in one bag and New York's Statue of Liberty and Times Square in another one, Muji provides you with a series of wooden toys that puts the big cities in a bag.



Telumine
By Florence Doléac (France)

Telumine is a television and lamp combination. The translucent mantle hangs down to cover the TV when it is on so the animated light illuminates your room.

Bronze drums of Baiyue still drumming

By Jiang Xubo

Ever hear the beats of bronze drums made more than 2,000 years ago? At the National Museum of China (NMC) you can see them and even beat them – all with the click of a touch screen.

The exhibition is called Glory of Ou and Luo: the Treasures of Baiyue Culture from Guangxi.

‘Baiyue’ is a general name for numbers of tribes of Yue: tribes who lived at south of the Yangtze River and south of the Qin Mountain over two thousand years ago. Xi’ou and Luoyue, based in today’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and northern Vietnam, were two of the major tribes of Baiyue.

The exhibition comprises some 200 pieces, ranging from household items, musical instruments, ritual staves and weapons, all unearthed in Guangxi. It’s an eye opening

display of the life Baiyue tribes led more than 2,000 years ago.

One of the most impressive pieces is the Bronze Drum with Rowing Pattern, one of three drums on display. A sun in the center is surrounded by a circle of ten egrets with fish in their mouths, radiating twelve beams of light.

Click a magnifying glass on the touch screen in front of the drum, and you can take a good look at all the exquisite patterns from every direction. Choose an audio clip, and you can even hear the drum beating.

Wang Fengxiu, an expert from the NMC said, “Bronze drums were a token of power and wealth. They are living fossils of Baiyue ethnic cultures. They continue to play an important role in grand ethnic ceremonies.”

Other interesting pieces include the Painted Bronze Tong with Loop Handle, a

vine vessel in the shape of bamboo. It’s a container with a cover, much like the container ethnic minorities in Guangxi use today to carry water or porridge when they work away from home. This



Bronze Drum with Rowing Pattern

Western Han Dynasty (206 BC to 25 AD) treasure, unearthed in 1976 from the Luobowan No.1 Tomb, Guangxi, is a unique art piece. The marvelous paintings on the body of the vessel depict the soul of the owner on his

way to the heaven under the direction of a prophet.

The owner of the tomb, very likely a senior officer of Nanyue Kingdom from Western Han Dynasty, enjoyed a rich funeral with thousands of pieces of wares made of bronze, iron, wood, pottery, jade and textile. A local fertilizer factory found the tunnel of this tomb almost 30 years ago by accident during its expansion project. This led to the discovery of the huge store of treasures, though in fact they were mere remnants to have survived tomb raids over the years.

Tombs of Baiyue ethnic aristocracy during Han dynasty held much more than valuable items. Ritual articles like house models tell us more about what daily life really looked like in ancient times.

The Pottery Model House with Six Figures is just too vivid to be true. Five men in the hall sift rice with another feed-

ing a pig in a stable located in the recess behind the house. Several goats enter the stable in line through a hole in the right wall of the house.

But the rural idyll of plenty and peace was just one side of the coin.

Constant war had an impact on the tribes and this is reflected in the weapons on show here.

The 39 centimeters long Bronze Sword with Human Mask, the longest of its kind, could only be found in south of the Qin Mountain during the Warring States Period (475-221BC). The eyebrows, the eyes, the nose and mouth of the human mask in its body were curved in such clear lines that they can still be easily recognized thousands of years later.

Glory of Ou and Luo: the Treasures of Baiyue Culture from Guangxi is at the NMC, through June 15.

Painted Bronze Tong with Loop Handle



The Pottery Model House with Six Figures



Bronze Sword with Human Mask

Tiesto took us to dance

By Chu Meng

Congratulations to dance nuts in Beijing. The world’s number one DJ Tiesto landed on the freshly opened Coco Banana Club near Sanlitun Street on Tuesday night. He shook the dance floor the entire night with his trance beats.

Several years ago, when world famous DJ Paul Oakenfold wanted to quit the scene at the zenith of his career, he was asked who would be the new gigantic star DJ. He mentioned an unknown – Tiesto, a young man from the Netherlands. “Who?” The dance world asked. But Tiesto made it. When he topped the Top 100 DJs across the world for the third time in a row in 2005, no one was asking “Who?” anymore.

In Coco Banana, the stereos hit their highest pitch, the lights sparkled at their highest frequency. Boys were on the edges of their nerves with alcohol, girls were in their most sexy tops. Even the air was boiling. Tiesto started with *Flight 643*, the so-called anthem of trance. Then he followed with the epic *Forever Today* and the capricious melody of *Love Comes Again*.

For those who are big fans of Tiesto, his name stands for the highest spirit of trance. For those who are acquainted with Tiesto, his name means you can enjoy a whole night’s hot dancing. However, for any who have heard of Tiesto, his name means number one, because no one has ever been *DJ MAG*’s number one of three times.



The dance floor



Tiesto

Photos by Rain Tian

Brides: a Greek triumph



By Chu Meng

Beijing’s first annual Greek Film Festival kicked off with *Brides*, a bitter-sweet love story set against the tribulations of the 1922 trans Atlantic crossing of 700 mail order brides to America. On board in the dingy third class cabin, some were forced to obey family arrangements, others were embracing unknown dreams on an unknown continent. Some died for their faith, others were revived with new happiness.

The movie unfolds on a dull morning on a northeastern Greece island. The tone is melancholy. A girl in her 20s lies

on a rock protruding toward the sea. Her name is Niki.

Niki, bound for a new life with an arranged marriage in Chicago, meets Damian, an American photographer on his way home to New York. The chemistry between the two plunges them into the powerful swirl of love. Unfortunately, she decides to betray her soul.

This is a beautifully shot and acted film. The director, Pantelis Voulgaris, should be congratulated. Damian Lewis has never been stronger – a gorgeous leading man, gives his character (Norman) such a natural air on screen that

there appears to be nothing artificial about him. Niki is a fine leading female character, strong, resolute, yet naturally human and weak.

The love stories, not just amongst the principles, simmer and grow, the sexual tension not forced or faked. It builds between the two main characters in a believable way as they carefully develop their relationship, respectful of each other and ever aware of the invisible boundaries that separate them.

Visually, it’s a beautiful film: from the sky and the sea of the Greek islands to the smallest detail of the wedding dresses

of the brides from many different places. The film is imagined from a true historical event, which lends poignancy to the plot. It gives great insight into Greek culture on things such as life on the Greek islands at that time and the importance of family honor. It also addresses issues that we struggle with in our modern world. It is well worth the time invested.

Brides is one of Greece’s biggest box office successes with one million tickets sold there so far. It received ten awards at the 2004 Thessaloniki International Film Festival, including the First Prize for Best Feature Film.

Russia opens her ‘art’ to Beijing

By Chen Shasha

The Open Russia Art exhibition in China National Museum of Fine Arts displays a rich collection of Russian paintings. Seeing it is like a trip through Russian art history.

The Masterpieces of the Open Russia exhibition expresses the spirit of contemporary Russian art. If you want to see the evolution of Russian art from traditional icons to modern art, it’s the place to visit.

Woman and Birds, oil on canvas by Niesterova Natalia is one example. A woman with disordered hair stands still, with hands drooping. Lots of birds are on

her body, in different poses. The puzzled face of the woman and the wings of the birds are highly emphasized. The painting interestingly combines the traditional style and abstract modern meaning, which attracted many to ponder.

Life and politics have changed in Russia in the 21st century. As a consequence, the art styles are more diverse. Some of the paintings still follow traditional styles, while others have striking differences with the photo-realistic paintings of the 19th century. *Good News* by Kalinin Viktor could be a model for modern Russia art. Two women are seated, with the color of their clothes melted with the

background. The expressions on their faces are also hard to identify. However, big blocks of color are used to express the happy mood of the painting.

Apart from the canvas oil paintings, the exhibition shows a group of paintings using different materials. Some are in wood, with clay, glasses and newspapers on them. From them, you can see the attempt made by Russia artists to search for the spirit of modern art.

As you visit the different halls of the gallery, you walk through colors, and at the same time through the century. Colorful, fantastic and vivid, the exhibition shows the great endeavor of Russia artists.



Woman and Birds, Niesterova Natalia, oil on canvas

Bestseller booklists 2nd week Apr.

By Jia Ting

US – New York Times Bestsellers

1. *Gone*, by Jonathan Kellerman



(Two acting students stage their own disappearance - but then one of them is murdered. The psychologist-detective Alex Delaware investigates.)

2. *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown
3. *The 5th Horseman*, by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro
4. *The House*, by Danielle Steel
5. *The Tenth Circle*, by Jodi Picoult

Amazon.com Bestsellers

1. *Cesar's Way: The Natural, Everyday Guide to Understanding and Correcting Common Dog Problems*, by Cesar Millan and Melissa Jo Peltier



(An accessible guide to help new and current dog owners better understand the needs of their beloved pets.)

2. *My Life in France*, by Julia Child and Alex Prud'Homme
3. *Suite Francaise*, by Irene Nemirovsky
4. *American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil, and Borrowed Money in the 21st Century*, by Kevin Phillips
5. *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, by Thomas L. Friedman

UK – The Guardian Bestsellers

1. *Cross Bones*, by Kathy Reichs



(An orthodox Jew is found shot dead in Montreal, the mutilated body is barely recognisable. Extreme heat has accelerated decomposition, and made it virtually impossible to determine the bullet trajectory.)

2. *Labyrinth*, by Kate Mosse
3. *One Shot*, by Lee Child
4. *The Last Templar*, by Raymond Khoury
5. *The Triumph of the Sun*, by Wilbur Smith

France – Fnac.com Bestsellers

1. *La Tragedie du President (The Tragedy of the President)*, by Franz-Olivier Giesbert
2. *Savoir Manger (Know How to Eat)*, by Jean-Michel Cohen and Patrick Serog
3. *J'etais Derriere Toi (I Was Behind You)*, by Nicolas Fargues

4. *Apprendre A Vivre (Learn To Live)*, by Luc Ferry
5. *Sans Raison (Without Reason)*, by Patricia Cornwell

Germany – Amazon.de Bestsellers

1. *Sakrileg (The Da Vinci Code)*, by Dan Brown
2. *Lucy mit C. Eine Reise durch Raum und Zeit (Lucy with C: A Journey Through Time and Space)*, by Markolf H Niemz
3. *Mission Arktis*, by James Rollins and Christine Struh
4. *Der Schwarm (The Swarm)*, by Frank Schatzing
5. *Gottin in Gummistiefeln (The Undomestic Goddess)*, by Sophie Kinsella

China – Joyo.com Bestsellers

1. *Brothers*, by Yu Hua
2. *Deception Point*, by Dan Brown
3. *Lotus*, by Anne Baby
4. *Manual of the Human Body*, by Wu Qingzhong
5. *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown

Catchy monkey

By David Drakeford

Literary pretensions aside, most westerners will be familiar with the characters Monkey, Pigsy, Sandy and Tripitaka from the comical and slightly bizarre TV series *Monkey* which is also the title chosen by Arthur Waley for his 1942 translation of the classic work of Chinese literature *Journey to the West*.

It is strange to think that one of China's four great literary masterpieces is popular as a television series and children's book – was *Hamlet* ever a cartoon? – and it could easily be dismissed as a bawdy slapstick set of adventures featuring cartoon-friendly animals like the monkey, pig and fish.

The story is attributed to Wu cheng'en, a scholar of the 16th century who set down a series of 99 adventures of the Monkey King and his reluctant assistance to a real 7th century monk Xuanzang (Tripitaka). Their journey started and ended at the Big Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an, and the return with scriptures that would form the basis of Buddhism in China.

Charming to those interested in mythology, a large number of the characters in the book are deities, spirits (good, bad, or in Monkey's case debatable) and those mortals who have achieved enlightenment. An easy assumption to make is that their bureaucratic ways and cronyism is a conscious satire on the corrupt rulers and officials of the Ming Dynasty. The political and social conditions in which a book was written should never be underestimated but a common idea already entrenched in Chinese folk religion is that the spirits and guardians of the beyond have a strict hierarchy as on Earth and are not above taking a bribe now and then.

Lao Tzu, Buddha and Confucius all appear in a metaphysical hotpot which can be confusing at times but the interaction of the characters is not hard for us to recognise. Tripitaka is spiritually pure and pious but impractical and holds back Monkey's wild spirit and anarchic nature



The Monkey King fight against the Heaven

Illustrated by Li Jiyu

as best as any parent of their own 'little monkey' could.

The novel's enduring popularity is due, in part, to the fact that when a child leaves their play-acting and monkeyshines behind there are other levels to be appreciated. Few among us would be so materialistic as to deny that life itself is a spiritual journey and our rush for the RMB is not a modern phenomenon. Monkey "found the men of the world all engrossed in the quest of profit or fame; there was not one who had any care for the end that was in store for him." Rather like good advice from a fool; we may choose to accept it or to laugh it off.

What's on local shelves



By Wang Xiaoyuan

Timezone 8 Art books

Barragan – The Complete Works

By Paul ed. Rispa

224 pages 560 yuan

Mexican architect Luis Barragan (1902-88) was one of the twentieth century's most creative designers and one of its best-known architects. Using vegetation, water, primary geometric forms, and vivid colors, Barragan created a poetic yet elegantly simple architectural style. This comprehensive compilation of Barragan's work contains new photographs and an updated bibliography, with intelligent analyses and superb illustrations demonstrate the complexity and scope of this genius.

Another America: A Testimonial to the Amish

By Robert Weingarten, Robert A. Sobieszek and Garrett White

142 pages 480 yuan

For four years, Robert Weingarten photographed Amish communities in Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. In 80 photographs, *Another America* captures the beauty and simplicity of a way of religious life that has been sustained for more than three centuries.

Where: Jia 24-2 Meishuguan Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6400 4427

Bookworm

An End of Suffering

By Pankaj Mishra

422 pages 125 yuan

Mishra offers an ambitious "book-length essay" that combines an overview of the

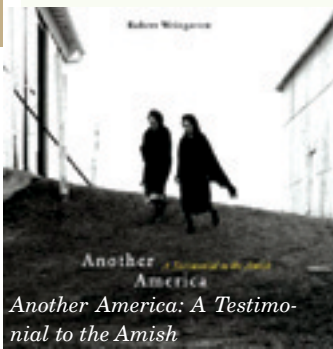
life, times and teachings of the Buddha with personal anecdotes and extended multidisciplinary forays into realms such as ancient and modern history, philosophy, politics and literary criticism.

My Name is Red

By Orhan Pamuk

508 pages 120 yuan

In Istanbul, in the late 1590s, the Sultan secretly commissions a great book: a celebration of his life and his empire, to be illuminated by the best artists of the day – in the European manner. But when one of the miniaturists goes missing and is feared murdered, their master seeks outside help.



107 yuan

Smooth, full-bodied and intoxicating as a fine wine. Every exchange showcases the author's subtle wit, and not one of the encounters between the book's well-matched protagonists – refined beauty Annabel Essex and the simple but capable Ewan, Earl of Ardmore – lacks passion, and a delicious game to elicit truths and kisses from one another

Flaming Luau of Death: A Madeline Bean Novel

By Jerrilyn Farmer

240 pages 107 yuan

Madeleine Bean, the L.A. party-organizing whiz who attracts murder and mayhem as much as she does glamorous clients, is planning an all-expenses-paid bridal shower on Hawaii's big island for Holly Nichols. The only problem is, Holly confesses that she might still be Holly Dubinsky, the wife of geeky Marvin Dubinsky, whom she married while drunk in Vegas. Farmer manages to sneak in interesting tidbits of Hawaiian history along with little-known facts about wasabi.

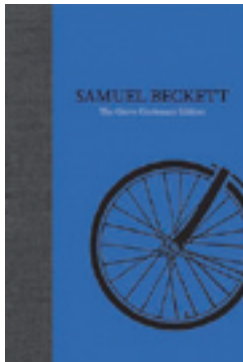
Where: 2nd floor of China National Publications Import & Export Corporation, 16 Gongti Donglu

Review

Love, Life, Goethe: How to be happy in an imperfect world

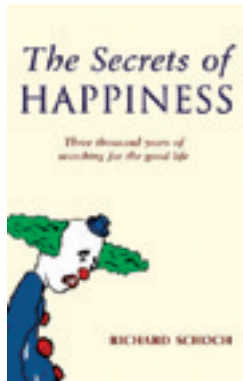
By John Armstrong, Allen Lane, 512 pages

In the book, John Armstrong seeks to challenge some of the negative preconceptions surrounding Goethe, the central figure of German – and European – culture, and to show why he still has much to tell us. Perhaps it is not surprising that an 'outsider', inasmuch as its author is not a scholar of German literature, should have written this reappraisal, one that presents Goethe, not as a 'received, oppressive' figure, but as 'something one might try to escape to'. For Armstrong, Goethe offers such an important model because "he integrates material and emotional stability with an astonishingly fertile creative life". (*Times*)

The Grove Centenary Edition

By Samuel Beckett, Grove, 2,078 pages

Samuel Beckett joined the extremes of silence and darkness which are also the extremes of high culture and low comedy, measured diction and uncontrollable farting more systematically than anyone had ever thought to do. He was perhaps the first to fully exploit the embarrassment of theater incorporating dead patches and literalizing the compulsion to perform. His radio plays are built around the provisional presence of the human voice, his film around an attempt to escape the omnivorous eye of the camera, and his television plays around a steady drone of speech, penetrating intimate environments uninvited with the nagging perseverance of memory. He had a sharp eye for essences. But his deepest and most complicated endgame was played out in prose, the struggle of language against itself. (*Village Voice*)

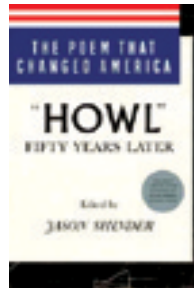
The Secrets of Happiness

By Richard Schoch.

Profile, 288 pages

Richard Schoch tells us that almost all experts thinking about happiness today grievously misunderstand their subject. The psychologists operate with measures of happiness that can't even distinguish between the momentary joys of a good meal and the richer satisfactions of a friendship, while the economists build their models of society on an assumption that the only pleasures we truly care about are financial ones. By contrast, Schoch promises to open our eyes to older traditions of thinking about happiness, which he feels have unjustly been overlooked in the modern era. (*Telegraph*)

By Wang Chun

The Poem That Changed America: Howl Fifty Years Later

Edited by Jason Shinder.

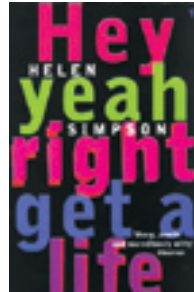
Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 288 pages

Like an 18th-century broadside, it was cheap, it was portable. It was a key to the enormous readership *Howl* has gathered over the decades, and you can still pick up a used copy for a dollar or so. Now, to celebrate its 50th anniversary, Jason Shinder, Ginsberg's friend and assistant, has produced a tribute album – but a tribute album in which half of the contributors are covering the same song. Rather than 'critical texts,' Shinder wanted 'personal narratives' from well-known writers on 'how the poem changed their lives'. The 26 essays document the poem's reception, from its stormy City Lights publication in November 1956 to the canonical status it enjoys today. Contributors include fellow poets Amiri Baraka, Andrei Codrescu, Alicia Ostriker, and Robert Pinsky as well as disciples like Anne Waldman and Eliot Katz. (*New York Times*)

Tourism

By Nirpal Singh Dhaliwal, Vintage, 256 pages

The narrator of *Tourism* is a disaffected British Sikh called Bhupinder, nicknamed Puppy. Set in the summer of 2002, Puppy is a layabout and occasional journalist/writer whose only real passion appears to be of a sexual nature. He hooks up with Sophie, a posh model, because he is infatuated with her friend Sarupa, a member of a rich British Asian family. The novel follows Puppy's efforts to snag Sarupa, hampered by his humble Southall origins. En route, he delivers acerbic descriptions of social strata that range from Hackney crack-dealers to guests at country-house weekends. Documenting slices of life across every social class in London, Puppy's cyclical quest for fulfilment sees him flitting from friend to friend who, just like him, are constantly searching for some meaning in their lives. (*Independent*)

Hey Yeah Right Get a Life

By Helen Simpson, Vintage, 192 pages

Helen Simpson's stories are about limitations. In *Hey Yeah Right Get a Life* she writes about women reaching middle age, life narrowing rather than opening before them. Fatalistic about their marriages, they are shaped by the needs of their children. Most are mothers at home, imprisoned in infant chatter. (Simpson is matchless on the importunate patterns of children's speech.) All their education and ambition has come to this. A few are mothers at work, separated from their children by nannies and impossible schedules, snared in guilt and resentment. Simpson has chosen a form – the short story – that is all about limits. The very brevity of her narratives enacts life's restrictions. (*Guardian*)

What's in My Town

By Han Manman

Didier Corlou is a famous French chef and has spent many years cooking around the world. His travels have seen him cook for Chinese President Hu Jintao, French President Jacques Chirac, Russian President Vladimir Putin, the president of Indonesia, and the kings of Norway and Spain, to name but a few. This experience taught him to be open-minded and creative in his cooking. Currently in Beijing, he proudly showed us his dishes. Corlou is adamant that his skillful blending of Vietnamese cuisine with French ingredients and techniques is not fusion food. His pleasure resides in mixing French ingredients with Vietnamese cooking styles to create new tastes. Thus, a traditional steamed rice pancake might be filled with caviar, or foie gras and truffles may be added to his spring rolls. Lotus flowers dress up his ‘sea-bass en papillote’, and his creme brulee wears the fragrance of cardamom. This time, Corlou will teach us four dishes with a Vietnamese flavor. His recipes show respect for traditional Vietnamese cuisine by not using butter, cream or spirits, but instead focusing on the essential components of Vietnamese cuisine such as *nuoc mam* (fish sauce), ginger, lemongrass and herbs. The result is dishes that are light and easily digestible. A wildly excited Corlou showed us how to make the four dishes.

Four dishes

“Do as the Romans do, the first dish I will show you is combined with traditional Chinese spring rolls,” said Corlou. This is also the easiest dish of the four dishes to make.

One foie gras with chicory

spring roll

Ingredients:

Foie gras terrine: 400 g
18 dry rice pancakes
Chicory: 3 g
Salt, pepper



Crab cannelloni banh cuon and sea urchin soup

Preparation:

Cut the foie gras into big strips
Cut chicory lengthways
Spread the rice paper, and place chicory, foie gras, seasoning with salt and pepper.
Cut the roll into pieces, present on plate.
Corlou suggested the dish should be served with some red fruits or a duck juice.

Homard lobster spring rolls

The second dish is also made using spring rolls. There are two special ingredients Corlou used that may not be familiar to Chinese, but which are the basic elements in Corlou’s creative cooking style. “Tia means perilla. Nuoc mam fish sauce is a widely used ingredient in Vietnamese cooking, just as westerners use salt and you Chinese use soy sauce in most recipes,” Corlou said. “If local people cannot find nuoc mam, Chinese light soya sauce could be used instead”.

Recipe for 1 portion

Ingredients:

Lobster: 300 g
Young leek: 6 pieces
Rice paper
Nuoc mam fish sauce
White wine: 100 ml
Coriander seeds: 10 g
Salt, pepper
Tia to leaves (perilla leaves): 50 g

Preparation: Cook the leeks in wine along with coriander seeds, salt, and pepper for about 20 minutes until soft and remove. Put the lobster into a bamboo container then cook it in water, take out, drain and peel, and leave aside. Roll the cooked leek with lobster and tia to leaves in rice paper.

The dish just needs to be made presentable. Corlou arranged four leeks on a plate, cut the spring rolls in two and put them in the middle of the plate. Add some nuoc mam (or light soya sauce) and chopped chili. Finally, decorate with dried tia to leaves and the head of the lobster and sprinkle on some crushed black pepper.

Crab cannelloni banh cuon and sea urchin soup

“Banh cuon means steamed rice sheets with pork. I cooked this dish for Chinese President Hu Jintao five months ago,” Corlou said proudly. He said the dish goes well with white wine.

Ingredients:

Rice powder for banh cuon: 0.3 kg
Onion: 0.4 kg (small diced)
Chopped shallot: 1 teaspoon
Perfumed mushrooms: 0.05 kg (small diced)
Brittany curry powder: a pinch
Crab meat: 0.2 kg
Sea urchins: 15 g
Tapioca pearl: 18 g
Cooking oil: 1 dl
Light soya sauce: 2 tablespoons
Pepper, salt: to taste
Sliced spring onion: 10 g
Crab stock: 0.5 liters



This week’s guest: Didier Corlou, executive chef of Sofitel Metropole Hotel, Hanoi, has cooked for many world leaders.

Photos by Wang Chao

French chef shows
Beijing his secret
recipes



Foie gras with chicory spring rolls



A part of Homard lobster spring rolls



Homard lobster spring rolls

Roasted red tuna with passion sauce and stuffed clams



Corn flour: a pinch
Black sesame seeds: a pinch
3 spiced rice pancakes

Preparations:

For stuffing: Saute shallot, onions and mushrooms, add crab meat, season with light soya sauce and pepper, Brittany curry powder, then add the sea urchins and spring onions just before removing from the flame. You can use Cannelloni to make the steamed rice pancakes.

Arrange the stuffing on the rice pancake, make one roll, and cut the two edges. Keep some stuffing to make the sauce. Use one steamed crab claw for decoration.

Soup: Boil crab stock with the remains of the stuffing and check the seasoning.

Thicken the soup with corn flour. Serve the soup in square glasses with some small sliced spring onions on top. Can be covered with a dried rice pancake and some coriander leaves.

Roasted red tuna with passion sauce and stuffed clams

Roasted red tuna with passion sauce (Corlou said if Asians think passion sauce is too heavy, honey could added to alter the flavor.)

Ingredients: for 4 portions

Tuna: 400 g
Lemongrass: 4 stalks
Passion fruit: 2 g
Pepper, salt, dark soy sauce, honey,
Green tea: 2 dl
Fresh star anise: 4 g
Chili: 0.25 g

For decoration: some white sesame seeds, basil leaves

Preparation:

Cut the tuna fillet cut into a big square piece, skewer it on a lemongrass stalk and roll in lemongrass leaves. Marinate tuna with mixture of passion fruit juice, dark soy sauce, pepper, and honey, let marinate for at least two hours and grill it medium rare.

Passion sauce with tea: Deglaze the cooking pan with passion juice, tea, season with soya sauce and add chopped chili, fresh star anise, salt, and pepper.

Steamed stuffed clams

Ingredients:

Four clams
Vermicelli: 10 g
Minced pork: 10 g (fat)
Four peeled and de-veined prawns
Chopped shallot: 3g
Some julienne of ginger and sliced spring onion.
Light soya sauce, pepper, some lemongrass leaves

Preparation:

Open the raw clams and keep the juice. Remove the meat from the clams, cut into two or four pieces. Soften vermicelli in water, wash it, drain it and cut finely. Finely crush the prawns. Mix pork, clam, prawns, vermicelli, mushroom and shallot, ginger, chili, green onion, seasoning with soya sauce and pepper. Stuff the clams, tie each clam with one leaf of lemongrass and cook in a steamer for approximately five to seven minutes, depending on the size of clams.

Alliya's Recipes

By Alliya

Serves four people.

Ingredients: 1kg spare ribs.

1 egg
Dried chili peppers,
aniseed,
garlic,
corn flour,
vinegar,
sugar.

Directions:

• Ask your butcher to chop the ribs into small pieces.

Chongqing spare ribs!

- Mix the ribs with the raw egg and a little corn flour.
- Heat five tablespoons of oil and add the chopped chili peppers and garlic, and six cloves of broken aniseed.
- Stir fry the ribs until golden, then add 1.5 tablespoons of vinegar and 3 tablespoons of sugar, follow by adding as much soy sauce as you can handle!
- Stir fry for a few minutes and add two cups of water. Cover the wok and simmer gently for up to an hour, or until the sauce has thickened.
- Serve with rice and steamed vegetables and enjoy: Bon appetit!



“英名天下”

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 神的Cynthia或Cindy,代表人物辛西
 娅·尼克松,主演了热门连续剧《欲
 望城市》(SEX And The City)而获得
 本届艾美奖最佳女配角的女明星。
 Cindy是月神的昵称,代表人物超级
 名模辛蒂·克劳馥(Cindy Crawford)

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北京青年报 BEIJING TODAY



Two expat families plant trees in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, on "Trees Planting Day" on March 12. Many foreigners living in China do charity and volunteer work. (CFP Photo)

China needs you!

By Lou Li

Many people, particularly the young, are heading to China, believing that tremendous opportunities await them here and they can learn the increasingly important Chinese language. Below we list some of the positions Chinese companies are looking to fill.

1. Tax accountant

Tax is levied in two ways in China – through national taxation and local taxation. The economy here is export-oriented, relying heavily on the world market. Therefore, accountants familiar with this system of taxation and with knowledge of international business are highly sought after in China.

2. Computer system analyst

Specialists in tailor-designing software and hardware for specialist clients, such as banks, hospitals and government bodies, including programmers, internet managers, etc.

3. Engineer

There is a demand for engineers with experience in environmental protection, civil engineering and industrial manufacturing.

4. Environmental engineer

As China becomes more aware of the importance of environmental protection, there is an increasing demand for environmental protection engineers, such as industrial hygienists, toxicologists and specialists in biological, chemical and industrial manufacturing.

5. Traditional Chinese medical practitioner

The failure of western medicine to treat some diseases and the popularity of traditional Chinese medicine has resulted in an increased demand for traditional Chinese medical practitioners such as herbal medicine doctors and masseurs.

6. Consultant

As Chinese society modernizes, there is an increasing demand for qualified, high level consultants, such as technical library consultants.

7. Claims evaluator

The insurance industry is booming with the increase in industrial accidents and natural disasters. There is an increasing demand for claims to be settled quickly, which requires claims evaluators, data processors and actuaries.

8. Lawyer

The demand for lawyers has increased massively over the past two decades in China. Today, demands for high quality lawyers and lawyers specializing in diversified fields such as real estate and Intellectual Property Rights is increasing.

9. Doctors and nurses for the elderly

China is an ageing society. The number of people aged 60 and above is increasing, particularly in the rich cities. As a result, demand for doctors and nurses for the elderly is increasing. There is demand for private doctors, nurses and day care service providers.

10. Home service

People are facing greater pressure at work and have less time to spend at home. This leads to a greater demand for services such as nursing for the elderly, baby-sitting and house keeping.

11. Professional PR agent

Chinese companies are becoming increasingly concerned with their public image, particularly in relation to the world market, both when exporting and investing.

The need for high quality PR agents is growing all the time.

12. Marketing

Professional marketing services will be needed in the next decade, particularly in relation to financial and telecommunication sectors.

13. Biochemist

Biochemists and analytical chemists are in short supply in China.

14. Psychologist

A rapidly changing society is inevitably faced with the problem of mental illness.

People here need psychologists, such as private psychotherapists and family and social problem analysts to help cope with their pressures.

15. Travel services

As people earn more money their desire and ability to travel grows. Travel agents who can book airline tickets, hotel accommodation and taxis are needed.

16. Human resources specialists

Chinese companies need qualified human resource specialists, such as HR managers and HR evaluation specialists as they enter international markets.

Seeking Jobs

Vicent Zheng, a native Chinese university student, has one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners, and is seeking as a Chinese language teacher. Email: Pupumini920@hotmail.com, or call: 6540 0615

I will be in Beijing during the months of July and August and I am willing to be an interpreter or writer for any position that suits your purpose. Douglas A. Bartake, Beauval, Saskatchewan, Canada, Email: dougman01@sasktel.net

Female,24,a native university graduate with nearly two years of working experience as an office clerk,is seeking a part-time job as an English guide and accompany. Email:donotsaygoodbye1@hotmail.com Tel:01063834603 connecting with Cindy

Female, Beijinger, MBA degree, 5 years work experience. If you want a good hand for business or English interpreter, contact Linda by email: tefclub@yahoo.com.cn, or call: 8695 2269, 1368337 9199

Brighten, male, 44, certified public accountant, experienced at accounting, taxation and financial management, good at English, is looking for a part-time job related to accountancy and audit. Contact: brightenmy@yahoo.com.cn, 13701291705

I am a PhD student in GUCAS (Institute Of MicroElectronics) looking for a part time job. I have 5 years of teaching experience in Pakistan. Sheraz Anjum at 82847120, 13581806434

Need a Magical Birthday Clown? Magic shows, magic class, face painting, treasure hunts and much, much more! Special deals for charities, hospitals and schools. Email Mr. Magic at: parsons59 @ yahoo.com

A native Chinese university student, with one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners, is seeking a job as a language teacher. Email: layla8311@yahoo.com.cn

Vacancies

Century 21 Dongchen Co., franchise holder in Beijing for Century 21, seeks expatriates/locals with good command of English and Mandarin. Previous property leasing preferred but not essential. For P/manager requires - at least 2 years experience. Dynamic and hard working with team spirit. Available full-time or part-time. Contact: 6585 1552, Fax: 6585 1569, E-mail: dongchen@c21bj.com.cn

Novotel Zhongguancun Beijing (under pre-opening) is looking for an HR Director/ Manager, IT Director/ Manager, interested candidates, please send CV and motivation to : gm@novotelbeijingzgc.com

The Southern Industrial Zone, Bincheng District, Binzhou, Shandong Province, is looking for two reps and five consultants in Beijing. Contact: Mr. Chen at 13561569235

(Send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com. Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information published.)

Graduates lower expectations

The average salary expectations of university graduates has dropped to 1,500 yuan (US\$190) per month, according to a survey by the local website chinaHR.com.

"This is close to that offered to graduates by local companies," the report says.

The report also warns that even graduates expecting a low salary will need experience if they are likely to be taken on by company chiefs.

A total of 4.13 million university and college students are set to graduate this year, up about 25 percent from 2005 and nearly four times as many as in 2001.

A survey by the same HR website shows that almost 11 percent will look for work in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, the richest cities on the mainland.

Volunteers sent abroad to teach Chinese

Yunnan Normal University in southwest China is leading a nationwide campaign to train and dispatch volunteers to teach Chinese abroad.

The university has sent 119 volunteers to teach in Thailand since 2001, said Wu Yinghui, dean of the university's Institute of Chinese and International Studies.

The university was appointed by the China National Office of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language in 2004 as one of the eight universities to train volunteers to teach Chinese overseas.

Wu said most of the 119 volunteers were graduates from journalism and Chinese faculties.

China started to recruit volunteers to teach Chinese overseas in 2004 to meet the global demand for the language.

Nationwide job fair

A week long, nationwide recruitment program for skilled workers, vocational and technical graduates and migrant workers has been launched by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MLSS) and two other organizations.

Under the program, private firms are invited to hold job fairs in communities, districts, counties and municipalities in 100 major cities around China.

A similar program was held in 2005, helping around 200,000 people find jobs.

Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju praised the recruiting campaign, saying the program will boost reemployment and the building of a harmonious society in China.

The program is being run by MLSS, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce.

The central government has allocated almost 186 billion yuan (US\$23 billion) so far this year, an increase of 23.6 billion yuan (US\$2.95 billion) over last year, to boost employment and improve social security. (Xinhua)

Expats in BJ:

Jonathan Kos-Read: A familiar face on the Chinese screen

By Tom Mackenzie

American actor Jonathan Kos-Read has starred in dozens of Chinese television shows and is one of the best-known foreign faces in the country. As well as getting his face beamed into the homes of millions over the years, he has gained a unique insight into the industry.

Q: How many films/TV shows have you been in?

A: I've been in about 45 TV shows here. There are no sitcoms here in China and very few movies. Everything they shoot is a 20 to 50 episode mini series.

I play characters like: the nerdy computer guy, evil British soldier, ruthless executive, kindly diplomat, friendly guy, etc.

Q: What are the most interesting films/TV shows you've ever worked on?

A: They're all interesting because they're so weird. You guys should have me write a column about it.

Q: What kind of films/shows pay the best and why?

A: Mid-level shows pay the best. There are three types of shows on Chinese TV. The first type are the shows about kicking Japanese butt and getting rid of evil KMT officials and stuff. Those pay poorly because their existence is more important than their quality; the producers, directors and stars have been given a task and they shoot.

On the other end are the really, really good shows with huge stars and good directors that are shot to make money. Those also pay poorly because the casting people cop huge attitudes and say, "Dude, take it or leave it. I've got a thousand people begging me for this part. You should be paying us."

Finally there are the shows in the



Jon and his characters on screen.

middle that might be good. They aren't made by famous people but are for the market. They have to pay well to attract good people.

Q: Any interesting stories?

A: I think they'd exceed your word count. But just for a flavor, I've been on sets where the producers were screaming at a bunch of reluctant Russian extras to run over unexploded ammunition, where producers reduced a whole village worth of 15-year-old peasant girls to tears because they cheated them out of a month's pay, where I was shooting in drug lord controlled north Burma when I got appendicitis and witches tried to cure me with spells.

Q: What are the best things about making films and TV shows in China and what are the worst?

A: The worst aspects of working in Chinese film are the same ones you run into in the States:

One, it's a hard job. It's incredibly stressful because no matter how bad you look or feel on any given day, you know that if you're bad in a scene, a million people will see you being an idiot.

Two, it's always hard to get paid.

Three, long hours. Twelve to sixteen hour days are standard.

Four, you're uncomfortable all the time. You go to little villages and shoot

winter scenes in 100F degree weather. You wear dirty, uncomfortable costumes that are never washed. You eat the same tasteless, boxed food every day squatting in some dusty corner.

Five, and really importantly, you have no job security. You sign three to four month contracts. When the show is done, you're unemployed.

The best things are also mostly the same. It's an interesting job if you like acting. You get to travel all over China. Non-industry people are really nice to you.

Finally though, it's cool just because it's so weird. Just to be able to experience all the crazy stuff that happens on a Chinese set is, in and on itself, worth it.

Q: What tips/hints would you give to aspiring actors?

A: Become a producer and exploit actors. It'll be much more lucrative, more stable and probably more fun.

Q: What plans do you have for the future?

A: Stay here and keep acting. Then when I get old and ugly, hopefully I can make the transition into some other area of the industry. I've been doing this long enough now that I have a lot of contacts.

I'm writing a few scripts with some Chinese writers – all of them starring a *laowai*.

Tips:

De-stress and re-focus with a workout

By Lou Li

The psychological and physical pressures of today's modern working environment are increasingly high. A daily, 30-minute exercise routine can help workers de-stress and re-focus.

Calm your temper with a dose of exercise

Do you find that you have a fiery temper? If so, regular, slow-paced sports could be for you. Ideal sports include chess, Tai Chi, jogging, long-distance walking, swimming and shooting.

Competitive sports get rid of nerves

Do your work colleagues or superi-

ors make you nervous? If so, you might find that taking part in competitive sports, like football, basketball and volleyball help.

These sports require you to handle confusing situations quickly and cleverly. Get used to the competitiveness of these sports and you will soon overcome your nerves in the workplace.

Team sports bring out the best

Are you anti-social? Do you find it hard communicating with the others? If so, try taking part in team sports like football, basketball and volleyball.

These sports will teach you the bene-

fits of teamwork and improve your communication skills.

Extreme sports help you overcome fear and take more risks

If you are timid, easily embarrassed and afraid of taking risks, swim, skate, ski, wrestle or do aerobics.

These sports teach people to lose their fear of falling down or taking a tumble. They will teach you to cross over any obstacle with boldness and courage.

Difficult sports keep you grounded

Play chess, table tennis or badminton with people who are better than you to keep that ego of yours in check.



Volos, Greek Olympic Village

Photos provided by the Greek Embassy in Beijing

Greece: more opportunities for Chinese students



Marietta Yiannakou

By Han Manman

During a three day official visit to Beijing, Greek Minister of Education and Religious Affairs Marietta Yiannakou introduced the Greek education system and the development of courses for foreign students in Greece, amended by the ministry officials and the press office of the Greek Embassy in Beijing.

Q: How many Chinese students are studying in Greece now?

A: More than 2,000 foreign students are studying in Greece. Although the number of Chinese students is still small, around 50, it is expected to grow significantly in the future.

Apart from public universities, we have also another education system. They are educational and vocational institutions. At present, these schools are not granted the status of universities. But it is expected that there will be qualified private universities in the country within three years.

This year, 25 Chinese students are learning Greek in order to gain admission to Thrace medical school in northern Greece.

Q: What are the advantages to further study in Greece?

A: Many foreign students choose to study in Greece because they are drawn to classical civilization. Our long traditions, cultural heritage, and long history give people another way of thinking.

Q: What are the best vocational and professional higher education programs in Greece?

A: Most foreign students read for degrees in medicine, natural sciences, and technology in Greece. Greece also has a strong tradition in humanities (esp. classics, history, philosophy and, of course, archaeology). In recent years, our social science programs in the fields of economics, business, and finance have become well known internationally.

We have created a new international university to receive international students, probably to start next year. All the courses are in English.

Q: Could you give a brief introduction of the new International University?

A: The International University is to be formally established soon in the City of Thessaloniki, the major economic and cultural center of the Balkans Peninsula in northern Greece. All courses will be taught in English. But students can also take language classes in Greek and other languages.

Q: How many universities provide classes in English?

A: Undergraduate education is in Greek in all major universities. A foreign student with no knowledge of Greek has to attend a one-year intensive course and sit an exam before entering a university.

However, advanced postgraduate/research degrees and diplomas may be taken by students with a good knowledge of English.

Q: What is the quality of your academic certificates?

A: Greece's public universities have generally been accredited and fully recognized in all major countries, providing high-quality education for decades.

Besides, Greece, along with 45 other counties, has already entered the 'Bologna Process' concerning the classification and automatic recognition of academic



Students go camping.



Entrance of the Athens Academy



Sailing

By Nikolaos Kaklamanakis

degrees, mostly in Europe.

Q: How much, in general, are the tuition fees and living costs in Greece each year?

A: The cost is generally low. The undergraduate cost is not more than 250 euros per year. As for the tuition fees for higher degrees (MA, MSc and PhD), the average cost is about 500-800 euros per semester. (In Greece, half academic year is one semester.)

Q: How about the living costs?

A: A single student needs about 500-700 euro per month, including accommodation.

Q: What are the career prospects for someone who studies in Greece?

A: In any open, growing market like Greece, there is always a demand for young qualified individuals.

Greece stands at the geopolitical crossroads of Europe, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean. Studying in Greece opens employment opportunities in business, commerce, finance, technology, travel, banking, journalism, media, education, law, and gives you a competitive edge in many professions.

Q: Do the universities require TOFEL, IELTS?

A: As mentioned above this is decided by individual universities. The level of competence and the way this is measured may differ from university to university. International tests, i.e. Cambridge Proficiency, TOEFL, IELTS may be taken into account.

Other criteria: undergraduate candidates are accepted on the basis of their High School Diploma and knowledge of Greek. The language may be studied independently for one year prior to the start of the academic program.

Q: What is the student visa procedure in your embassy? How many days does it take? What documents are needed?

A: A student visa requires a number of documents. All documents provided must be translated into English or Greek. For details, please visit: www.grpressbeijing.com.

Greece promotes education cooperation with China

By Han Manman

In a bid to push forward bilateral education exchanges and cooperation, especially between universities of the two countries, Greece and China have signed an education cooperation agreement.

The Greek Minister of Education and Religious Affairs Marietta Yiannakou signed the agreement with the Chinese Education Ministry Zhou Ji last Friday in Beijing.

Yiannakou said that Beijing Foreign Language University and Zhejiang University would have a Hellenic Studies department next year.

According to Yiannakou, The Greek government will set up a university accepting overseas students in the northern city of Thessaloniki, where classes would be in English and Chinese students would be encouraged to attend.

Zhou Ji also expressed the hope that all the Chinese who would go to Greece study Greek for six months to a year in advance.

Ask Ayi:

Q: I will graduate with an economics degree from the East China University of Politics and Law this year and want to do a postgraduate course in international economic law in the UK. But my TOEFL is only 576. What schools can I apply to? Are there any pre-postgraduate programs available there?

A: If you want to study in the UK you had better start the application process at least one year in advance. As for your English capabilities, you can sharpen your language skills by spending several months the UK. Northern Consortium UK (NCUK) provides courses to prepare international students for undergraduate and postgraduate studies in the UK.

The program is jointly offered by 17 UK universities and aims to promote the overall English proficiency (and thesis writing in particular) of international students in the UK. You can obtain details of the program from many study abroad agencies in big cities in China.

Taking the NCUK program can help you become exempt from IELTS scores requirements and increase your chances of securing a student visa.

Q: My son is about to graduate from the computer faculty of Shandong Economic University. He scored six in his IELTS test. Can I send him directly to Australia for a postgraduate course or should he take a pre-postgraduate program first? How much does a postgraduate program cost and how long does it take?

A: In Australia, the pre-postgraduate program is regarded as a part of the postgraduate study and requires a minimum IELTS of 6.5. It takes twelve to eighteen months to finish a postgraduate program in Australia. Total tuition fees are estimated at A\$20,000, plus A\$10,000 living costs each year, the total cost is around 200,000 yuan (A\$1 equals 6.1 yuan).

(Edited by Ayi)

New restrictions on British visas

Chinese students are now required to provide a Certificate of Sponsorship from a specific school to obtain a British visa, according to Britain's new points-based immigration system.

For Chinese students, who usually receive several offers from British universities, this means they must decide on a school before they apply for a visa. Under the current system, they can apply before they make this decision.

The move is an attempt to curb abuse of Britain's immigration system. British employers or educational institutions that issue sponsorship certificates have the responsibility of giving feedback to the British government about whether the person is a genuine student.

Sino-British joint scholarship launched

A Sino-British joint scholarship program has been launched to finance the education of young talents, China's Ministry of Education announced.

The program, called China-Britain Zuoyue (Excellence) Scholarship, will allow young Chinese scholars to study and conduct research in top British universities each year, while British students and scholars will have the chance to study in China.

Chinese students will also have the chance to see how British companies operate through a separate one-year internship project under the program.

The program is the biggest joint initiative since the Sino-British Friendship Scholarship Fund was established in 1986.

(Xinhua)

Study in Canada (4):

How to find a job on campus

By Feng Nianhua

The summer vacation had almost passed when I was informed that I could go to work in the pub, a public house, from the following Tuesday evening; unfortunately, I couldn't accept it due to a heavy workload the following semester.

I believe most Chinese students have thought about how to find a job to earn extra money even before they arrive in Canada. Working outside campus is

not allowed, so I'll share my experiences about job-hunting on campus. It was really difficult for me, an international student, to find a job there.

Generally, there are lots of job ads posted on the boards at Busloop, Student Union Building, and in all departments. An alternative is to register in the university's careers online job posting. I also suggest you check the website everyday to see if there are new jobs suited to you.

The jobs you can find on campus can be divided into different groups, the best one is as a teaching assistant and research assistant which might concern your study field and thus benefit your studies. In Canada, getting the position of teaching assistant means you get a kind of scholarship. But there are many strict requirements, so you have to grasp the opportunity as early as possible before a new academic year begins.

As far as research assistant is concerned, it does not only depend on your ability, but also on the chance it appears when you have a flexible schedule. I had been lucky to get a research assistant to produce a CD for a Chinese course in Asian Studies.

If you can become library assistant, that's really good too, because the workload is not very heavy and you can get more money per hour than other kinds of jobs, like as a waiter in a restaurant.

Write a resume showing your advantages and work experi-

ence before you go job hunting. Bosses in Canada think the related working experience in their areas is vitally important, even if you just want to apply for cleaning position in their restaurants. It is a challenge for international students, especially considering the language barriers. What you can do is design your resume according to each job opportunity, and do more volunteer work to improve your experience.

Finally, prepare for each interview and be positive and confident. Good luck to you!

The best known scene of Etreta



By Wang Xiaoyuan

Travelers usually only glimpse Etreta. The small town north of Normandy, is too small and modest to be alluring to most. Etreta is a place more suited to a nap or a walk after lunch than resort style facilities.

Sitting on the coach to Etreta, the beauty of the countryside of Normandy is overwhelming. Love villas are hidden behind blossoms and stony steps. People dress casual. In the middle of the way, an old gentleman wearing a cravat gets on with a scarlet rose in hand.

Beach

Etreta stands out for its limestone beach and rocky cliffs. The stones on the beach are all washed soft and shiny by the waves. In the gentle sun light of northern France, the stones reflect the semitransparent reds, grays and blues. It is lovely to walk bare-feet on them, facing the pure green and blue ocean breathing in front of you.

Swimming in the sea here is like floating in a piece of moving jade. Even at the end of September, the water is still warm and pleasant. It is also very common to see local people sailing their colorful boats here. You don't need to pay to swim, and there are neither protection nets nor a lifeguard, as the sea here is mostly peaceful and calm. However, most travelers prefer lying on the beach.

Seagulls cover the beach. They have been fed too much to fly. Be careful if you bring picnic, they may sneak up and steal the sausage from your backpack.

Cliffs

The trunk-shaped cliffs have become the symbol of Etreta. If you know something about Guilin in South China, you may see similarities between it and Xibi Mountain. From south to north along the coast, stand three huge white rocky cliffs in parallel. Each of them is just like an elephant stepping into the sea and drinking water with its trunk. The one at the southern end is rough and strong; while the northern one stands high, sharp and rolls delicately; only the middle one is slim and plain, stretching itself to the sea far far away.

Just to the north of the limestone beach, rocks become rough and thorny. Mud and yellow gray sand are also brought by the stronger current. However, the water here is even more pure and wild. Along the coast stand miles of white cliffs. It is easy to tell the age of them by the clear layers from the body of the cliffs. Climb up the cliffs you will find yourself among wild-grown grass. Look down from the top, you can have a fantastic view of the whole coast. Here the waves roar and splash. However, if you are brave enough to climb across the rocks between the limestone and the cliffs, this is the best place to swim topless.

A very small chapel made of white stone stands on the top of a hill beside the coast. It is so small that you may take it for a sheep fold. A long narrow path twists from its iron gate to the limestone beach. This makes the chapel a perfect wedding venue. Happy guests often follow the path to hold the ceremony in the chapel. Smiling brides, pink petals, white beaches, blue sky and sea form an image for any romantic novel.

Town

It is well known that small towns in France are different from the luxurious and snobbish capital Paris. Town people incline to silence and live a routine life. Even during the tourist peak, Etreta still appears lazy and flexible.

Just next to the coach station, there is a little gallery exhibiting all the paintings and photographic works about Etreta. Most of them are of the three cliffs. You will see what they look like in daylight, dawn, twilight, and midnight.

The whole town is built on a mountain. You always walk up and down there. Originally a fishing village, capstans and fishermen's huts are still standing on the sea front. And cottages set in squares are named after fishing crews and their masters. As tourism flourishes, restaurants and hotels in Bavarian style and Anglo-Norman architecture develop in a fashionable timbered style, with triangle roofs and wooden cross patterns. The timbers all come from two houses built between the 14th and 16th centuries in Lisieux, which were carefully rebuilt. In the center of the town lies a small market in the shape of a cowshed, covered with lovely red roof and supported by green stalks. In the market you can buy swimming suits, handicrafts, postcards and other souvenir. Most of the travelers like to buy ships inside bottles.

Seafood is famous in this town. Etreta has the best *moule* in the country. Boiled in the soup mixed with brandy and coriander, it still tastes so fresh in your mouth! Along the coast there is a long corridor made of wood. You can enjoy the scene of the ocean while eating. A standard bowl of *moule* only costs five to six euro in Etreta, about two euro cheaper than in Paris, and much more delicious.

Golf

From the 19th century, impressive villas have been built and golf has been introduced. The geographic advantages of Etreta make for a broad and gradient golf course between slopes and cliffs. Regular lawn spreads over nearly half of the town. The northern part of the course just connects the first two cliffs on the coast. Perhaps this is what makes Etreta luxurious.

Have a nap in Etreta

Tips:

Route: Paris-Rouen-Le Havre-Etreta

Start from Garre Saint-Lazare railway station in late afternoon, arrive in Rouen in the evening. Spend a night in Rouen. Take coach to Etreta next morning, transfer in Le Havre.

Places around to visit:

Rouen, to visit the Rouen Cathedral built in 1063, which survived bombing in World War II.

Le Havre: To visit Normandy Harbor, one of the most important harbors in France.



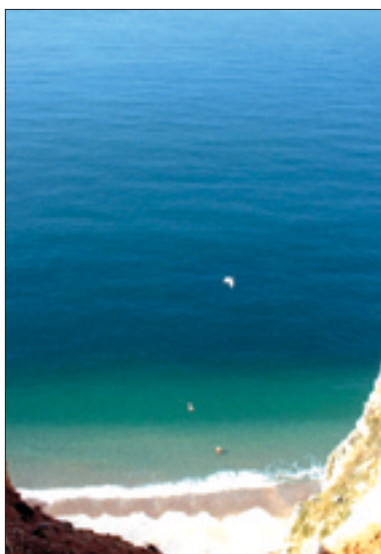
Playing golf among the cliffs



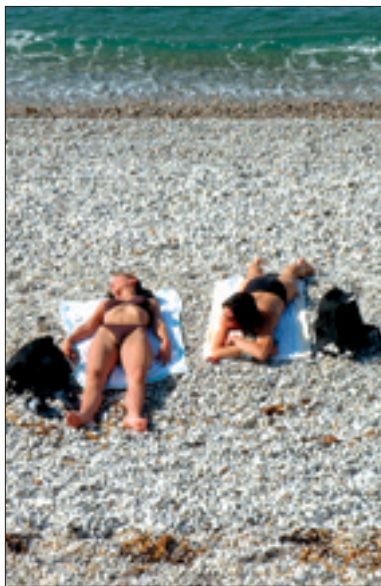
Mind your feet!



Downtown afternoon



Run into the open arms of the sea



Flat out

Wild wild Normandy